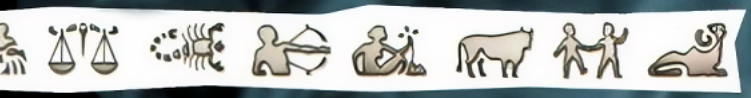
Kurt Hasel

The Spell of Superstition



Burden and DELIVERANCE

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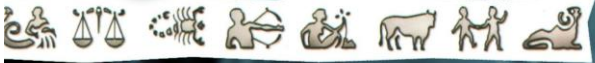

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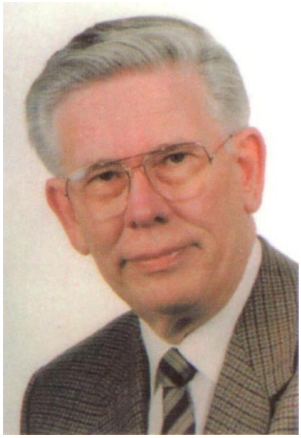

The Spell of Superstition – Burden and Deliverance

Kurt Hasel is married and has three grown children. After the completion of his vocational training he studied theology in Germany and England and received postgraduate training in the United States of America. He worked successfully as a pastor in many cities of Germany. His ministry also led him beyond the borders of his native Germany to many places in Europe.

Kurt Hasel is a convinced and loyal Christian. His answers to the many questions of life and faith are built solidly on the Holy Scripture.

The content of his book:

The pursuit of occultism, spiritualism, and the superstitious has become common for many people in our time but it is by no means an innocent pastime. The alarming fact is: Many people of many walks of life suffer under the burdens that are the result of occult practices.

The crucial question is: How can I experience deliverance from occult burdens and oppressions?

This book describes not only different occult practices and their effects on the one who practices them. The main focus of this book is to show the "way to deliverance" from occult burdens.

Many readers in different countries have already practiced the easy to read instructions.

For them it has literally been the start of a "new life". This experience can become a reality for you – even today!

Kurt Hasel

The Spell of Superstition
Burden and
DELIVERANCE

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Preface

Today more and more people are turning to teachings and practices which are more often influenced by mystical and occult ways of thinking without seeing any danger in occult practices or seeking advice from the occult The occult offers a considerably wide palette of services, ranging from the horoscope through palm-reading, oscillation, yoga, spiritualism séances and speaking with the dead, to conjuring sick organs, only to name a few. These services have become accepted in everyday life of our society! The results of a recent survey in Western Europe show that 85% of those asked have sought some kind of help from occult powers sometime in their lives. This survey also shows that the German-speaking countries have the largest number of sorcerers, fortune-tellers, card-readers, hypnotists and other persons who are masters of the ‘art of black magic’ and who are offering their occult services as a profession.

Satan is a cunning strategist. He knows how to adeptly spread out his net and enslave people, especially those in distress. So today we hear of more and more fortune-tellers, astrologers, and spiritualism 'praying' with their 'patients', laying on their hands and quoting the Bible expertly. After all, this is nothing more than 'White Magic'!

Occult practices and influences, disguised and well-camouflaged, are becoming a great danger even to the 'Faithful'! Masquerading as an angel of light, the Devil is trying to draw the Faithful into his web; he is seeking to deceive the Faithful with the most sophisticated methods, especially in the area of Para-medicine Parapsychology. The Word of God tells us that Satan, a liar and the father of lies from the very beginning, is capable of even appearing as an angel of light.

The Bible warns us of such deceptive temptations by the Devil! At the same time the Word of God tells us how to react in this battle. Our only weapon is the Word of God itself!

We can ascertain an alarming increase in occult practices as well. There is a growing yearning for and curiosity in the supernatural among people today. The magic and occult underground is spreading rapidly. We can also ascertain that this occult wave does not spare Jesus' Church and does not halt in front of its doors.

Many people today are depressed by fear, fear of the future, fear of cancer, etc. Moreover isolation from society and perhaps the dangers of life have awakened in people a longing for security, for comfort and for the answers to many unsolved questions. And right here is the area where the occultists are offering their services, even through advertisements in the newspaper. How often do we find offers for artistic amulets! Business is booming!

For this reason, 30% of Germans believe that the future can be foretold. And whoever is prepared to pay at least € 150 to € 300 for a foretelling of his future has a difficult choice to make between Germany's many professional clairvoyants, fortune-tellers and sorcerers. Almost all of them have become well known through newspapers, radio and television! Out of fear of an uncertain future people are turning to astrology and reading the horoscope. In the end reading the horoscope usually leads to a belief in the horoscope only after just a short space of time.

In this way God, who out of love would so much like to form our lives, is being shoved aside. But only God is able to remove our fear for the future, not the horoscope, not palm-reading and not even communication with the dead!

When we in the West hear the word Yoga, for example, we usually think of certain acrobatic exercises, of standing on our heads, of the Lotus-position, and of the other difficult body positions. In fact Yoga is essentially something more than just Asiatic gymnastics. The goal of Yoga is human self-realization; its aim is a spiritual one!

According to Professor Loeb in Giessen, "Even in our age superstition has not yet died out completely, and there are still people dealing in it." According to Jacquerod, the divining-rod, appeals to the faith, the sense of the mystical,

of the supernatural and it "helps to nourish superstition in people, even the educated; it represents a return to the epoch of sorcery." And it is not true that Moses was also a 'dowser'. Quite the contrary; 'asking the rod' in the sense of sorcery is very clearly condemned and forbidden in the Bible! Science as well does not recognize any terrestrial radiation in the sense of the dowser. Except for certain hypotheses no one has been able to produce anything about such terrestrial radiation up to until now! In no scientific experiment has the influence of terrestrial radiation been yet proven, so we should not let ourselves be deceived by anyone!

The danger coming from the realm of the occult is well-known to us. Professional literature has reported more than enough about the consequences of occult treatment such as damage to the psyche, imagined anxieties, depression, the alarmingly high number of suicides and separation from God. However it has always proven to be a delusion whenever man has sought to solve his problems without God.

God accompanies us every day and gives us words of hope. Jesus is stronger than all our bonds! A Christian's future is in Jesus' Second Coming. Whoever surrenders his Life to God also chooses a life with God! Only through the blood of Christ is there liberation from the darkness: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36). The cross is the sign of God's love!

That is also why the main concern of the author of this book is to warn people of the dangers of the occult and sorcery and of the psychological oppression arising from them. Kurt Hasel is not interested in a mere portrayal of the possible aberrations but, rather, in a confirmation of the old Way of Salvation above all, which leads to the Cross of Christ. May this new enlarged edition also find a wide reading public!

Dr. Manfred Heide

It all began with a longing for happiness

Ruth Marti's father drank. He did it often and heavily. It was so natural for him that Ruth Marti considered it normal when he came home drunk in the evenings. This normality, however, had an effect; he never took time for her or even made it so that she could feel secure at home, much less offer her or her little sister a hug. Her mother was just the same.

Ruth Marti happened to come across a horoscope one day; it promised happiness. She wished the prediction would come true, and indeed it did. It was a weekly horoscope, but Ruth Marti, still a student, eventually began to visit the kiosk every day, as often as her savings allowed.

Little by little her friends started to become more interested in men and in spending more time with them. For such issues horoscopes were no longer sufficient, one needed books specializing in this area. In these books you could find what astrologic signs to pay attention to in order to find the right partner. In Ruth Marti's case, however, it never seemed to work properly, even after several attempts. Her partners drank, smoked, injected drugs, and always seemed out of control. The situation reminded her of that of her parents, so it was nothing new to her. Ruth Marti didn't believe she had earned anything better anyway; her self-esteem...

One of her girlfriends came to visit her once and became worried about her. "Somehow it's not working out between the two of you," she said, "You should visit a fortune teller. I know of one for you." Ruth Marti went to the fortune teller, who predicted that her boyfriend would become ill and that he would eventually cheat on her.

Though it may have been the truth, it did little to help

the relationship; added to every quarrel between them were now mistrust and fear.

Another friend came to her. Her advice seemed reasonable: Bach Flower Remedies — flower essence therapy. Through this kind of therapy, one was supposed to become more relaxed, feel better, and all anxieties were supposed to decrease. Furthermore, there were ideal drops for emergency cases such as hers. Within a short time Ruth Marti had stocked ten bottles of original flower essence from Dr. Edward Bach on her shelf, none of which gathered dust. Eventually the plants in her apartment and office began to receive some of the valuable flower essence drops. Ruth Marti most often reached for the emergency drops. They helped against fear and panic, or so they said.

One morning she saw a poster, hanging in a drugstore, advertising a course from a certain Mr. Coue. He claimed that it was possible for one to alleviate suffering through his method of positive thinking. That evening Ruth Marti came home satisfied, holding an instruction sheet in her hand. It described how one could think positively. The following morning she got started. "I'm doing fine, I'm ok, I'm all right,"— a hundred times. And how was it on the next day? "It worked."

The class had another positive side effect. Ruth Marti was able to get to know like-minded people and make a new friend. Her new friend explained to her why the Bach Flower Remedies had not worked correctly for her. Ruth had simply taken the advice of the druggists and pharmacists, whose primary concerns were business interests. Therefore, their tests hadn't even been conducted carefully or thoroughly enough. The most optimal mixture of flower extracts could only be found with the correct testing method, which, in her case, was with the use of a pendulum. Ruth Marti was convinced.

In addition to using the newly found appropriate Bach

flower remedy, Ruth Marti began to experiment with special stones, thought to have purifying and cleansing effects. The idea was that one was to lay on the floor and place a crystal on his or her forehead. Other stones were to be placed on other parts of the body as well, but always directly on skin. This was the only way the cosmic energy could flow through the human body. Ruth Marti had also heard that cosmic energy continually flowed through trees, so she began to take a course on tree horoscopes, and, just to top it all off, another one on stone horoscopes. And because the ways of the supernatural world were still a mystery to her, she also attended the lecture of a medium, who claimed to be able to consult the dead.

Ruth Marti's journey had become a long one, but every step, she hoped, would bring her just a little closer to her burning desire: to finally be someone. To be able to co take in light, and warmth, and energy, and experience and inner peace. The greatest joy... it just simply had to come.

One night a figure came into Ruth Marti's bedroom through the window, as if the pane were nothing but air. The creature looked atrocious and came directly towards her. Panic seized her. Then the creature disappeared and the horror was gone. But that wasn't the only time that happened. Several various spirits visited her from then on, and as the apparitions became more frequent, sleep became rare. During this time Ruth Marti made three suicide attempts. Distressed and panic-stricken, she joined a self-help support group, and at a meeting shortly before Christmas she burst into an uncontrollable crying fit.

A friend from the support group took Ruth Marti home with her. The light in her apartment had to remain on night after night and the doors to the bedrooms kept open, but the figures haunted her here too. After 14 days her friend was exhausted. She took Ruth Marti to the pastor of her church, a Seventh-Day Adventist pastor. He spoke to her and she

listened, but she didn't grasp what he was saying. What struck her was something else: the man was completely calm. He then prayed for her.

Ruth Marti continued to visit the pastor, who eventually suggested that she return to her apartment with her friend and, for five minutes, test to see what would happen. The women did this. Nothing happened, and from that day on the figures never appeared in her apartment again. Despite this, Ruth Marti didn't remain in the church.

She later wound up unemployed and during this time she decided to move. In her new community she befriended a woman who invited her to her home regularly for small church group meetings. Ruth Marti liked her new friend, but she wasn't too thrilled about the church group meetings. Singing wasn't exactly her interest, and, while others turned to passages in the Bible, she had no idea what the book even contained. Her friend, however, didn't give up. She continued to invite Ruth Marti to concerts, breakfast-meetings for women, and eventually to the evangelistic seminar "Jesus for Zurich." Ruth Marti declined, but something wouldn't leave her alone about it. She quietly went to the seminar, all alone.

That evening she gave her life to Jesus Christ. She had never felt so happy before. Now she could sleep soundly at night, like a child. She filled two trash bags with her esoteric books, five years of psychological treatment never once took into consideration: she forgave her mother - and her father."

Christliches Zeugnis, ESOTERIK II; (Campus für Christus, Switzerland, Zurich, 1999), pp.66.67.

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Faith or Superstition

Esoteric

Under the heading 'Esoteric' in any bookstore today we can find a virtual flood of books which can scarcely be surveyed. The demand for publications in this area is steadily increasing. Again and again we come across certain terms such as: 'Astrology,' 'Spirit-healing,' 'Hypnosis,' 'Magic,' 'Meditation,' 'Mental-training,' 'Mysticism,' 'Faith-healing,' 'Spiritualism,' or 'Yoga,' just to name a few.

The occult Wave is Breaking

There is one fact we cannot deny: Superstition, occultism and spiritualism in all of their various manifestations are playing an increasingly greater role in our 'Scientific Age.' If we want to find out what decision we should make, we need to only pay some 30 to 40 dollars for a short horoscope. Large companies are now employing astrologists. Actors and politicians are now consulting astrologists. There is an ever-growing interest in magic circles, black masses and spiritualism.

Students are Engaging in the Occult

Many young people are well versed in occult practices. In school responsible teachers are complaining about the extent to which many students enjoy spending their free time in tilting glasses or tables, oscillating and other occult practices ('to only pass the time') without knowing what influences or dependence they are letting themselves in for. More and younger people are reporting coming into contact with 'black masses' and 'Satan's cults' in addition to the other 'occult practices.'

Superstition and occultism, with all of their accompanying manifestations, no longer belong to the past. Even in our technical age with its high level of education, superstition has become more firmly rooted in the human heart than ever before.

Is Superstition Triumphing?

The message about Jesus Christ and His act of salvation has never before been so widely preached from the pulpit and over radio and television as it is being done right now. Millions of Bibles are being sold. A virtual flood of Christian literature is being printed daily. Do we not find it rather strange and astonishing to see how superstition and occultism are also keeping pace and continually celebrating new triumphs?

Two definitions are necessary here in order to better understand the areas mentioned above:

Occultism

The word '**occult**' means 'hidden, concealed, secret.' With 'occultism' the 'secret science' is meant; it is the 'science of the supernatural and extra-sensory realms'; it deals with 'the scarcely accessible realms on the borders of human knowledge.'

Spiritualism

'**Spiritualism**' deals with 'the belief in the alleged appearance of departed souls.'

Dangerous Assaults

Many people are greatly fascinated by superstition, occultism and spiritualism. It is very alarming how many people in our highly technical society are engaged in secret practices under the assumption of being able to obtain knowledge which is not to be obtained through the logical scientific method.

Actually, God's great adversary has concealed himself behind superstition, occultism and spiritualism. He has spread a thick fog over all of this area, obliterating all of its boundaries. In these realms mentioned above, we encounter his well-aimed and dangerous assaults.

The Advantages of the Christian Faith

What role does Faith play? Faith means trust. We can find a helpful definition in the Holy Scriptures:

Faith Means Trust

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

The question as to whether faith and trust are of only secondary importance or are vitally necessary can be answered with the Bible text:

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

The Antenna of Faith

Through faith we establish communication with God. We place our trust in God. Faith is, so to speak, the antenna of our Christian lives. The antenna of faith enables us to receive the 'Divine Channel.'

The Goal of Faith

The Christian Faith has only one goal. This goal is God. In God we encounter the quintessence of genuine love. God wants to help us because he really loves us. He wants to free us from sin and its terrible consequences right now, and one day He wants to also eliminate the limits of death in our lives. Then we will no longer be subject to death; we will be able to live untroubled, carefree and happy 'eternal lives in the presence of God.'

"...that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:8-11)

Perilous Faith

Superstition, occultism and spiritualism have a different goal. There is a perilous faith; it is the antithesis of genuine faith. These areas of activities belong to the Devil's realm of power. On the surface God's adversary offers his help to human beings. Hiding behind his enticing offer, however, a pernicious deception is lurking. Actually the Devil has only one intention; when we

have once accepted his help, he wants to destroy us mentally, physically and spiritually and inflict everlasting perdition on us.

What God Asks of Us

What does God ask of us? He is our Creator and therefore has the right to make demands of us. God does not make any selfish demands. He only demands what is best for us.

> *"We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does His will." (John 9:31)*

Obedience, a Source of Joy

God demands obedience. Likewise parents demand obedience from their children, not because they want to torment their children, but rather because they want to help and support them. Parents already know where disobedience leads to; children are still unsuspecting. We are glad when our children really follow our direction and are obedient to us. Parents demand obedience from their children because they love them. When a relationship of trust has developed between the parents and their children, the children will gladly follow their parents' rules because they know they only want what is best for them. Obedience is no longer difficult then.

A Living Relationship with God

God makes us the best offer of all. Can we afford to decline such an offer?

> *"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'" (John 14:23)*

Whoever fulfils God's will, will experience living fellowship with the Living God. When God takes control in our lives, Satan can no longer make any

demands on our lives. We have then become the prop-

erty of the Almighty Lord.

Moreover, Jesus tells us what he would even more like to present us with:

Longing for Peace

> *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)*

All of us are longing for genuine peace of mind. Only Jesus can give us lasting and blessed peace. This inner peace is the consequence of our living in harmony with God's will.

No one can help us as well as God. We can rely on His promise:

Only God Can Help

> *"So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6)*

God is almighty. Hudson Taylor, the great China missionary, once said, "Why should I ask frail human beings for help, when there is an almighty God?" This missionary, who accomplished great things with God, was well acquainted with the powerful help which only an almighty God can give. Dear reader, if you entrust your life to God, God's omnipotence can be effective in your life, too. God can wonderfully help you in all of your personal matters.

Jesus Is the Victor

Jesus is the Victor! This fact is the foundation of the Christian faith.

> *"He who does what is sinful is of the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work." (1 John 3:8)*

The Devil has been conquered. Jesus Christ wants to be the victor in your life, too. He can be! He wants to be! Rejoice: JESUS IS THE VICTOR!!

Disclosures about the Devil's Origin and Intentions

The topic of Faith or Superstition is a very serious subject. It is possible that you are only reading this book out of curiosity. Perhaps you are diligently seeking answers to all sorts of questions. The reality is that this subject is of earth-shaking significance.

The Devil Does not like it

First of all, let us acquaint ourselves with the Devil's methods. The Devil really exists; but he does not present himself as "The Devil." He hides himself behind a wide variety of masks. With God's help we want to unmask him. He, however, does not like this plan. Who does enjoy having his mask torn from his face? One thing, however, let us not forget: JESUS IS THE VICTOR!

Because of the seriousness and significance of this subject, prayer is indispensable. It is absolutely necessary to now ask God for His help and protection as well as the assurance: JESUS IS THE VICTOR! God will gladly grant you your request. Dear reader, it is a matter of your life and death. I would now like to ask you to pray this prayer aloud:

My Prayer Grant me Protection and Victory

"ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FAHTER, ,in Jesus' name I come to you right now. I thank you for the fact that Jesus Christ is the Victor in the great controversy with the Devil. God Almighty, you can reveal to me the Devil's true nature and his methods of deception. I would now like to place myself under Jesus' precious blood and ask you for your divine protection. Grant me a correct understanding through your Holy Spirit and reveal to me where I may have offended you in my life. Help me to comprehend the seriousness and significance

of this *subject*. Also grant me the inner readiness to choose the path to freedom. I now lay claim to your promise: 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' (John 8:31) **Grant me the assurance that JESUS IS THE VICTOR in my life. For you have promised, 'I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.'** (John 14:13) **I believe that you can fulfill this promise. Grant me my request now and I thank you that you have now become the Victor in my life. I thank you that I may now be a happy and grateful person. Amen."**

The Devil is no Invention

God's adversary is the Devil. He is no figment of the imagination. He actually exists, even though we have never seen him. One young man expressed the opinion, "I do not believe in any Devil. There is no Devil at all." When I asked why he was not convinced of the existence of the Devil, he answered, "I have never seen him!" I then asked him whether he believed in God. "Yes, I believe in God," he replied. "Have you ever seen God or your own mind before?" I then asked. "No!" was his answer. "I have neither seen God nor my own mind before." I then explained to him, "If you are convinced that there is a God and that you possess a mind without having seen either of them, then you can also be convinced of the existence of the Devil, even though you have never seen him face to face. Moreover, the Bible, the Word of God, tells us that there is a Devil."

Jesus Christ declared:

"Be careful - watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring Lion, looking for some victim to tear apart." (2 Peter 5:8; Living Bible)

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Jesus urgently warns us about His adversary:

Jesus Warns Us about the Devil

> *"You belong to your father, the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)*

There are only two possibilities; either Jesus Christ was the 'truth' in person or He was a liar. Even if He was a liar, we must be astonished by how much good He achieved in His life. If, however, He embodied the 'truth,' then we must believe what He has said. Jesus has clearly described His adversary for us. The Devil is the self-declared enemy of God, His Kingdom and all human beings.

The Devil is Leading the World Astray

These statements in the Bible inform us even more about the Devil's origin and existence:

> *"And there was war in Heaven. Michael and His angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in Heaven. The great dragon was hurled down that ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the Earth, and his angels with him." (Rev. 12:7-9)*

According to what God has said there are absolutely no grounds for any doubt as to the existence of the Devil as a person. The Bible tells us about a Devil, who "is leading the whole world astray." How does he accomplish that? How is it possible that educated and intelligent people are being leaded every day without knowing it? Cunningly deceptive tricks and masterful disguise are the techniques used by the Devil.

The Devil Brings Death

From Martin Luther we have the statement: "The Devil is God's great imitator." This statement is justified. What God grants us in His love, the Devil also offers us, only under different auspices? The Devil tempts us to sin, the result of which is death. God grants us His righteousness and eternal life. Both God and the Devil demand obedience. Obedience to God grants us a life of freedom; obedience to the Devil, however, brings us death. We can choose whom we want to be obedient to:

> *"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16)*

A Dangerous Mixture of Truth and Lies

Another ingenious method also belongs to the Devil's disguise. He always uses just enough truth until his lies are believed. The Devil binds up a sack full of truth with a cord of lies. Therefore it is not astonishing when most people have difficulty distinguishing between the truth and the lies in the Devil's offer. That is what makes it so difficult to uncover his machinations.

The Devil is a master of disguise. The Bible warns us:

> *"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:14)*

A Masterful Masquerade

With the expression 'an angel of light' our attention is drawn to the fact that the Devil pretends to be a 'benefactor of mankind'. In this role he places splendid, deceptive offers of help at our disposal. The Word of God very clearly tells us, "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." It is a masterful masquerade indeed! Behind this masquerade the Devil is scarcely to be recognized. Let us determine which masquerades the

Devil makes use of and which offers of help he places at our disposal.

An Assassination Has Been Planned

Dear reader, your assassination has already been planned. God's intelligence reads as follows:

> *"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:11)*

How is an assault or assassination carried out? Assassins do not operate in the open. They ambush someone. As fast as lightning they emerge and carry out their assault. Exactly this is the Devil's method of attack.

The Battle Front

We are standing on the battle front. The opponent is invisible. All too often we experience that the battle has already been won by the underhanded opponent long before we have even comprehended what is going on at all. Very quickly we have become the victims of one of the Devil's assaults. The Bible describes the situation in the following way:

> *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the Heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:12-13)*

We Must Pay

When God helps us and we claim His support, it costs us nothing. For the Devil's help, which we consciously or unconsciously claim, we must pay. When God helps us, He helps us out of love. Love does not demand any payment. Love gives free of charge. The Devil does not love us. When we claim the Devil's help, which he apparently offers to us as a benefactor,

then we must pay a price for it. The Devil's intention is to rain us. It is a high price which he demands. In the chapter: **"The Spell of Superstition and its Burden" pp. 107 ff.,** the prices which the Devil demands from us for his help will be listed. The chapter **"Deliverance through Jesus" pp. 157 ff.** and **"The Path to Freedom" pp.184 ff.** will deal with the most important parts of this discourse.

Let us now deal with the following question: How does the Devil manage to deceive intelligent and enlightened people. Behind what masks does God's adversary hide. What do his disguised offers of help look like through which he actually harms us? God's Word lists them by name:

The Devil's Offer of Assistance

> *"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so." (Deut. 18:9-14)*

God calls superstition, occultism, and spiritualism together with all of their practices 'detestable' (KJV: 'abominable'). Here we are in no way dealing with 'harmless past-times' or 'trivialities.' These sins of superstition and sorcery are serious offences. They are 'high treason' which harm us and make us liable to

God's punishment.

Detestable Sins

We cannot be indifferent to what God calls a sin, especially a "detestable sin" as in this case. Each and every sin has cost the life of Jesus Christ and He is the Son of God, His life. He has shed His precious blood for this. Therefore the highest price in the world has been paid for the 'detestable sins,' too, and that is why we are given the chance that Jesus Christ can forgive us these serious sins.

The Biblical descriptions of the "detestable sins" contain the Devil's "assortment," so to speak. What is special about the Devil's "assortment"?

The Devil's Sample Collection

When a firm's salesman visits his business customers, he displays his extensive collection of samples. He carries bags and cases with him and is in a position to display samples appropriate to every taste and price category. The Devil works according to the same principle. He has a comprehensive and diversified offering at his disposal. Whoever is not satisfied with one certain sort or manner will surely become enthusiastic about some other ways and means. Whoever is not satisfied certain offers primitive, will probably show an interest in another suggestion. Eventually we may think, "Actually I am not superstitious but there appears to be certain connections." Now we want to deal in a practical matter closely with the Devil's sample collection listed in Deuteronomy 18. They are a disguise it which the Devil conceals himself.

Fortune-telling and Reading the Cards

Fortune-Telling

First we have the extensive area of fortune-telling. In our present-day age fortune-tellers are experiencing a boom. In addition there are many people

who are experimenting in fortune-telling themselves. In the United States we can frequently see a sign in the street: "Fortune-telling Services. Please step in. Open 24 hours a day." It is very tempting. Who would not like to know how the trip will turn out, whether there will be a friendly or unpleasant reception. The temptation is great and scarcely anyone would consider it to be 'high treason' against God or an offer of help from the Devil.

Reading the Cards

Belonging to the area of fortune-telling is also card-laying. This is only one of the disguises behind it where the Devil is hiding. It is alarming how many people are engaging in reading the cards. One wants to know what the future will bring or what decision should be made. At a fair in Munich I once observed a man and his secretary in a fair booth at noontime. She was attentively reading the newspaper; he was sitting at a table and laying cards. I asked myself whether he wanted to know what business deals could be expected?

No Independent Decision

Whoever reads the cards or has them read for him can very quickly become dangerously dependent on them. In the course of time he will become incapable of making his own decisions without having consulted the cards first. Why do we want to consult the cards? What was it that Hudson Taylor once asked, "Why should I ask frail human beings, when there is an Almighty God?" Why don't we ask God, when there is a decision to be made? No one can advise us better than He! God does not have to consult the cards. Reading the cards is high treason with which we offend God.

Is Consulting the Cards a Sin?

Why is consulting the cards such a sin? Whoever consults the cards or has them consulted, is not consulting God but rather the Devil. We are not seeking help from God but from His adversary and in this way offending God. Moreover, we must pay a price for the Devil's assistance. We can be happy that there is the

possibility that God will forgive this offence and will see to it that we no longer have to pay the Devil his price for it.

Divination, Significant Dates and Days, Palm-reading

Divination

Divination also belongs to this area of fortune-telling. What do we mean here? A few examples should be sufficient:

Unlucky Signs

Knocking over the saltshaker means strife.

It is unlucky when, in falling, the point of a knife or scissors sticks into the ground.

When your head, right hand or nose itches, you will hear something new.

Make a wish in a new church three times aloud.

Make three crosses above the house-door or over the window.

Thinking the number 13 is an unlucky number.

Putting on your clothes inside out is unlucky.

Choosing the Right Day

On certain days or at the new moon not sowing or planting, not traveling or marrying.

Between Christmas and New-Year not drying or any washes in the attic.

A Fateful Dependence

We could still continue this list at will. Divination is very wide-spread. Consciously or unconsciously, we ascribe a certain meaning to any kind of sign or event. In this way, however, we can become dangerously dependent very quickly. As a rule this means that divination then becomes more important to us than the fact that the Living God is watching over our lives.

Actually God not only holds the fate of this world firmly in His hands, but He is also the Lord of our lives. We can truly entrust our lives to this almighty and loving God. God already knows all of our needs. We all desire the certainty that God is faithfully caring for us.

Trusting God, the Best Decision

Everything that happens to us has first pass by God. He only allows what is best for us. He wants to grants us His help and security, as the Apostle Paul has stated,

> *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." (Romans 8:28)*

Should we then believe in questionable divination instead? Do we want to make our lives dependent on signs and occult practices? Without a doubt the best decision is to consciously entrust ourselves to God's guidance and protection and to not engage in any divination for which we have to pay negative prices in our lives.

Palm-reading

Palm-reading belongs in this area of fortune-telling as well. Many are of the opinion that this is harmless. At many a fair you can have your fortune told from the lines in your hand for a few dollars. Why shouldn't you do that at least once in your life? You really are doing it only for fun!

Impossible to Forget

Here as well the Devil will demand his price for our curiosity and his assistance. We cannot really be happy with all sorts of foretelling of the future, be it through fortune-telling, card-reading, palm-reading or anything else. It is strange but we can no longer forget the prophecies. Whether we have only thought of it as nonsense, or whether we have acted out of curiosity, or whether we have practiced it to just pass the time, we are continually being reminded of its meaning.

The Monkey with the Red Face

Once upon a time there was an Indian Fakir who came into a village one day and declared he wanted to show how gold could be produced. It wasn't long before a curious group of people were eagerly watching as he poured water into a large kettle, added some color to it and stirred it with a constant muttering of some magic formulas. At an opportune moment, as the attention of the public was diverted, he dropped some clumps of gold into the water unnoticed. He stirred a bit longer and finally poured out the water. Lying on the bottom of the kettle, there was the gold he had promised! The village dwellers couldn't believe their eyes and were greatly astonished. The money-changer offered 500 Rupees for the recipe. "But," declared the Fakir, "as long as you are stirring, don't think about the monkey with the red face. If you think about it, you will never receive any gold." The money-changer promised that he would be careful and would try to forget the monkey with the red face. But no matter how hard he tried, he could not get the monkey with the red face to vanish from his mind. In this way the condition was not fulfilled and the production of gold was made impossible.

Dear reader, the same thing will happen to you when you try to forget a prediction of the future. Why do you wish to weigh yourself down with the knowledge of the future which you have received from a fortune-teller or other occult practices? You will never be satisfied and happy with it. You will have to pay a high price for your knowledge of the future.

Astrology, the Horoscope, the Signs of the Zodiac

Astrology

Astronomy is the science of exploring the stars and space; astrology, however, deals with interpreting

the future from the stars and therefore belongs to the realm of the occult. Here the horoscope and the signs of the Zodiac play a great role. Astrology is dealing with the interpretation of the future from the constellation of the stars. This interpretation of constellations is not based on divine truth.

Horoscope

Hardly any illustrated magazine or weekly or daily newspaper can afford to not print a horoscope and its predictions for the future. Those who do not, must reckon with a fall in sales and circulation.

Old White Elephants Sold

There is a story about a certain large newspaper whose employed astrologer did not have his horoscope finished on time and the newspaper was ready to go to press. Pressed for time, the editor decided to reprint a horoscope which had already appeared some six years before. Although he reckoned with a flood of letters of complaint, not even one letter came in. Finally the thought occurred to him, "What are we paying an astrologer for? We will simply reprint the old horoscopes." And that is what they did. Only after half a year had passed did a reader come forward and make the complaint that he had already read this horoscope once before. He wrote, "Something is not right here!" He was right; the horoscope actually was not right. The rest of the readers, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, had noticed nothing at all and had had blind faith in the horoscope.

My Hobby: ***The Signs of the Zodiac***

One certain woman told me, "My hobby is reading the horoscope and observing the signs of the Zodiac!" Excusing herself, she then added, "That is, however, an absolutely harmless past-time!" Dear reader, should that also be your hobby, you will then have to pay a high price for it. Jesus can however liberate you from your burden, just as He has also granted this woman the freedom she had longed for.

Pagan Origins

The principles of the 'astrological time-table' were drawn up and invented by Chaldean and Babylonian priests some four to five thousand years ago. Although they have undergone many changes in the time since then, these ancient propositions are still the basis of modern astrology, more or less. The astrological time-table has no Christian origin or background whatsoever.

A Grave Mistake

At that time the observations of the heavens were made without any of our modern technical equipment. The opinion ruling then was that the heavens were like a vaulted canopy on which all of the stars were orderly arranged next to each other like a carpet. Today we know that this is not the case. The stars are not only located next to each other, but behind each other, because space also has depth. The depth of space is estimated at several billion light-years by astronomers today. The stars are often thousands of light-years or even more removed from each other. Each and every star moves in its own orbit at various velocities. What we actually see in the sky is an illusion, for the stars are not next to each other on the same plane, but rather arranged behind each other in space in echelons.

An Arbitrary Distribution

The Zodiac depicts the orbit which the sun takes in the course of a year. This circle is divided into twelve parts. This division into twelve parts is purely arbitrary and there is no proof that it has to be exactly twelve parts.

The Signs of the Zodiac do Not Exist

The Chaldeans established the connection between these parts of the sun's orbit and the religious symbols of their Babylonian gods. They sought out a particular constellation of stars which, when connected with imaginary lines, produced the form of a lion and then named this part of the sky the 'constellation of the lion'. Another part of the sky, in which a constellation resem-

bling a scorpion was found, was reserved for the scorpion. The twelve signs of the Zodiac, therefore, are not actual figures, but rather only imaginary symbols which are suppose to have their positions on the vaulted canopy. Actually the astrological symbols of the Zodiac do not exist as a consistent constellation of heavenly bodies at all.

Astonishing Interpretation of Character

Let us now examine a bit more closely a few of the allegedly amazing interpretations of character from the signs of the Zodiac. Dear reader, if you were born under the sign of Aries, the ram, you should now pay very close attention. Were you born under another sign of the Zodiac, you should pay even closer attention. Astonishingly you will notice that the description of the character of the person under Aries will also apply to you, even if you belong under another sign of the Zodiac.

In astrology the assertion is made that:

Aries, the Ram

"People born under the sign of Aries are often serious and decisive, then again nervous and inconsistent. Through their rash and usually thoughtless decisions and actions they themselves are the cause of their own injury and misfortune."

The Description Can Be Applied to Everyone

Perhaps astonished, you now ask yourself, "Who knows me so well?" Even more astonishing, every description has been kept so general that it can apply to every one else just as well. I ask you to please examine whether it doesn't apply to you as well. Are you not often "serious and decisive"? People under the sign of Aries are "nervous and inconsistent." Doesn't that also apply to you? Hasn't it also happened to you that you hesitate to make a certain decision and cannot come to the right decision? Who is not nervous today? Have you not quickly decided and acted 'rashly' and 'thoughtlessly', too? Astonished, you must notice that the descrip-

tion of the person born under Aries has been kept so general that it is a description which can equally be applied to everyone else as well. However, when the person under Aries reads the description of his character, he is astonished and it is again one more proof for him that there must really be something to this astrology. However this description proves absolutely nothing.

It is asserted about those born under the sign of Leo, the lion:

Leo, the Lion

"Those born under the sign of Leo are mostly good-hearted; they always plan more than they are able to carry out."

Those born under Leo will say that this is an exact description of their character. Even if you weren't born under the sign of Leo, I would still like to ask you now whether you are not 'good-hearted' as well. You certainly want to try to act well. Do you not often plan more than you are able to later carry out? The characteristics of those born under Leo can equally be applied to everyone else as well.

Gemini, the Twins

"Those born under the sign of Gemini, the twins, are 'friendly and kind'; 'their deeds do not always correspond to what they say.'" Doesn't that equally fit all of us as well? (1)

You Don't Learn Anything New

Dear reader, no one can learn anything through astrology that he has not already known before. The tragedy of this is that this realm belongs to the Devil's sample collection and we are dealing with things here which God has expressly forbidden.

What is rather odd is that the astrologers work according to different methods. Some astrologers use the moment of birth as the basis of their computations of the horoscope. You not only have to give the day and

the hour, but also the minute and, best of all, even the second as well. The constellation of the planets waxing on the eastern horizon at the moment of your birth then supposed to be the determining factor in your life. Some others make their computations according to the constellation which is standing vertically in the sky at the moment of birth. Finally there are some other astrologers who consider the moment of conception as the determining factor. In this case it is even more difficult, for who can give you any precise information about that moment? Which of these astrologers is then using the correct method in his computations?

Let us now take note of what the Holy Scriptures has to say about astrologers. The prophet Isaiah expresses the following opinion:

> *"All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Lest your astrologers come forward, those star-gazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the first will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame." (Isaiah 47:13, 14)*

According to the statements in the Bible, astrology belongs to the detestable sins. God places the death penalty on these practices.

A Fateful Horoscope

Astrology is not only treason against God, but those who engage in it become strongly dependent upon it. I once became acquainted with a certain businessman who related to me, "I think a lot of astrology. Astrology is terrific! I wouldn't know at all what I should do without it!" He then reported how at the beginning of the year he had had his horoscope prepared. His horoscope told him that in the second week in August he would have an unlucky week.

This intelligent man then assured me, "You know, it is good that I already know that. During this week I will not leave my house at all. I will also not drive my car, for I would not like to become involved in an accident."

Knowing the Date of Your Death Will Not Make You Happy

This man has become a slave of his horoscope and has become completely dependent—and only on a piece of paper at that. In conclusion he added, "I have had my complete horoscope calculated. I even know the date of my death; only my wife does not want to believe it."

Dear reader, how happy am I that I do not yet know the date of my death. I thank God that He has not yet revealed that to me. If I already knew this date, I would have to think about it every day. Such foreknowledge I gladly forego. I want to consciously experience every day God grants me under His guidance. My life rests in God's hands. May God help me to live in the knowledge that my life can come to an end on each and every day. I want to be prepared for my death every day. However, I do not want to know the date of my death. I have yet to meet someone who was really happy and satisfied with the knowledge of the date of his death. Exactly the opposite is true, the closer this day approaches the more nervous and restless such a person becomes. My life is secure in God's hands and this fact brings me peace of mind.

Fortune-Tellers Lie

A certain woman, thoroughly occupied with astrology and fortune-telling as her 'past-time,' did not want to accept the fact that there was anything wrong in it. It was only a harmless past-time for her. God's statements opened her eyes to the truth of the matter:

"Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Do not let the prophets and diviners

among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,' declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 29:8, 9)

Who is Right?

After the woman had read these texts, she confessed, "I did not know that God has called fortune-tellers liars. I did not know that fortune-telling is a sin in God's eyes. If it is a sin, then I want to have nothing more to do with it!"

Oscillating, Divining-rod

Oscillating

The next area in the sample collection is oscillating. Oscillating is widely practiced. Farmers oscillate over chicken eggs in order to determine whether a hen or a rooster will hatch out of the egg. Mothers who would very much like to know whether they will give birth to a boy or a girl ask the pendulum. Many people use the pendulum in order to find out what foods are suitable for them.

After World War II many a wife was living in uncertainty about her husband's fate. She then held a pendulum over a photograph of her husband and the way in which the pendulum oscillated meant his soon return, his death or anything else. Who can say that oscillating is harmless? It often occurred that the person oscillating then suffered from depression, was tortured by suicidal thoughts or paid a high price in other areas.

Diagnosis with the Pendulum

There are not only nature-healers but also medical doctors who are using the pendulum in examining their patients. The 'Pendulum Diagnose,' in which the pendulum swings out to where the illness in the body is, is supposed to be always right. It is even possible to determine the suitable medicine with the help of the pendulum. Here we must ask what the consequences of the use of the pendulum can be, if it is not reacting to some

kind of indefinable rays, but actually to some other "power".

Personal Confession

Unfortunately more and more doctors and nature-healers are using occult practices to a greater extent. At this point I would like to make a personal confession: I would not like to fall into a dangerous sphere of influence. For this reason I would first make sure, eventually through pointed questions as well, whether such procedures were being used which unequivocally belong to the occult area. If this were the case, then I would decline the diagnosis and the treatment resulting from it. I could only entrust myself to such doctors who are using irreproachable procedures and therapy. I am happy to say that, thanks to these precautions, I have always been able to find capable and qualified doctors whose diagnoses and treatment have been carried out through irreproachable procedures.

Oscillating at School

The students in many schools are now using the pendulum during recess in order to obtain information about all kinds of questions and wishes. They consider oscillating to be only a harmless past-time or, at worst, a secret practice prickling one's nerves, without suspecting what kind of burden they are letting themselves in for.

The Divining-rod

Dowsing with the divining-rod must also be listed here. There are certain scientific explanations for the effectiveness of the divining-rod. The deflection of the divining-rod is supposed to be the consequence of the attraction of 'terrestrial magnetic radiation'. No matter how logical the attempted explanations may sound, there are nevertheless other 'powers' being brought into play with oscillating and dowsing.

There are two circumstances connected with divining-rods which should put us on the alert and give

First Alarm

us the warning ‘maximum danger.’ What is most peculiar is that the sensitivity for the use of the divining-rod is transferable. What is so special about this? A certain man told me how he once witnessed a dowser seeking a vein of water with his divining-rod. In various places the divining-rod deflected. Very interested, he continued to look on. Suddenly the dowser asked him whether he wanted to try out the divining-rod, too. Curious, he accepted. He took the divining-rod into both hands, but it did not react at all. He was greatly disappointed, as before he had carefully observed those places where the rod had deflected.

A Formula for the Dowser

The dowser then invited the man to try it once more. Again he walked over those places where the divining-rod had deflected, but again nothing happened. A third attempt remained just as unsuccessful. Discouraged, he was just about to give up, when the dowser then said, “We’ll fix that in a jiffy!” Then the dowser stroked both of the man’s upper arms with both of his hands and invited him, “Now try it once more!” He again took the divining-rod firmly in both hands and set out. Suddenly the divining-rod deflected strongly that he could no longer hold it no matter how hard he tried. From then on the man had received a ‘feeling’ for the divining-rod and was always able to find water.

Supernatural Powers

Dear reader, the fact that the sensitivity for the divining-rod is transferable is something to ponder. If the divining-rod really reacts only to the terrestrial-magnetic rays supposedly present, then it must react for everyone equally. However, if the sensitivity for the

divining-rod is transferable, then there are doubtlessly other powers at work. They are supernatural powers which God does not identify with.

God’s adversary does not give anything away for nothing. Dowsers often have inexplicable misfortune in

their family. Many suffer from depression and suicidal thoughts, only to name a few of the burdens they are troubled with.

Burden and Deliverance

In the same way as described above a certain woman was given the sensitivity for the divining-rod. She confessed to me, "Since then I have lost all interest in prayer and everything having to do with God, and experience an inner uneasiness which is continually growing in me." I showed her the path to freedom from all occult burdens through Jesus Christ. She was ready to accept this divine offer of help and experienced deliverance even on the same day.

Whoever, as a dowser, accepts the help of God's adversary must pay a price for it. Dear reader, suicidal thoughts, depression, a lack of interest in prayer and similar things are not gifts coming from God. They originate from Satan, whom Jesus called 'a murderer from the beginning.' The **'Good News'** is that God really can free us of all of our burdens. The divining-rod is mainly used for finding water. Occasionally, however, diagnoses of illnesses or the suitable medicine is also determined by using the divining-rod. It must be stated very clearly that the divining-rod belongs to the Devil's sample collection and is one disguise which he has masterly concealed himself.

The Devil well knows how to spread such an impenetrable fog over his comprehensive offer of help that it is very difficult to shed light on these 'mysterious

things.' Only the Holy Spirit can grant each of us personally a correct knowledge of oneself and clearly show us the devilish origin of these things.

We can then pray with confidence,

A Prayer That God Will Hear

"Almighty God, through Your Holy Spirit grants me recognition of the guilt in my life and grants me the forgiveness of my sins and then deliverance from them through Jesus Christ. Amen."

The Living God will hear this, our request, because He loves us and really wants to help us.

The Story of a Dowser

A professional dowser once told me her experience. At the age of 12 her parents wanted to drill a well on their property. To accomplish this they ordered a dowser to find a suitable vein of water. Out of curiosity she watched the dowser at his work. She was impressed when the dowsing-rod lashed out at a particular spot and wanted to use the dowsing-rod herself. The dowser transferred to her the receptivity. She was very happy about it and learned to use the dowsing-rod more effectively every day.

Successful Professional Use

Her ability to use the dowsing-rod grew so much that she was called again and again when people built houses and wanted to know where a vein of water was or when they wanted to know the ideal place for a well. She became a well known professional dowser. House owners and other people used her service to find veins of water. According to her counsel beds were moved to different locations so that people would not be exposed to dangerous and unwholesome radiations. At those places where the dowsing-rod had lashed out devices were put up to protect people from dangerous ground- and water-radiations.

New Beginning through Giving her Life to Christ

The lady and her husband were later invited to attend Christian meetings. The message about Jesus Christ, who as Son of God had come into this world in order to become our savior and redeemer, moved their hearts. Both made a conscious decision to follow

Jesus Christ and became firmly convicted Christians.

The Dowsing-rod A Gift of God?

From now on the lady thanked God every day for her ability to use the dowsing-rod to really help other people. For her the "helping dowsing-rod" had now become a real gift of God.

What Kind of Powers are at Work?

Her husband, however, became skeptical as far as the dowsing-rod was concerned. He sought for an answer in order to know what kind of powers were at work in this. After counseling with another convinced Christian they called a dowser. They asked him to find a vein of water on their property. On a certain spot the dowsing-rod lashed out. In order to be absolutely sure they asked this man to go over this area six times. Every single time the dowsing-rod lashed out on the same spot. Now the two men walked behind a bush and prayed: "Our mighty God in heaven, we are seeking a clear answer. If the power that is manifested in the dowsing-rod is not from God, then please let the dowsing-rod not lash out again." After this short prayer they asked the dowser to go over the same area again. The dowsing-rod, however, did not lash out at the previously marked spot. The dowser repeated his attempts but the dowsing-rod did not move. The dowser then said: "I absolutely cannot understand this. This has never happened to me before." The two Christians had received a clear answer. The lady, however, who was a professional dowser, could not be convinced. For her, no matter what, it was a "gift of God" and she thanked God for this gift every day.

An Alarming Signal

A few weeks later the lady was visited by her friend who told her about a good old dowser who was well known to her. The old dowser was lying on her deathbed when all of a sudden a great restlessness

overcame her. A black appearance in the form of a person appeared to her over the bed and said with a deep voice: "You belong to me!" She tried to resist the appearance. It was a terrifying experience. A believing friend of the old dowser encouraged her and urged her: "Please give your life to Jesus Christ. Then you are God's personal property and you belong to God!" The next day the old lady gave her life to Jesus Christ and was able to die in peace.

God's Clear Answer

The professional dowser became very anxious when her friend told her this story. Now she wanted to know for sure herself and prayed: "Lord, please show me whether the use of the dowsing-rod is a gift of God and hence harmless or whether this gift does not come from you."

When she opened her Bible after her prayer she found the following statement in Hosea 4:12:

> *"My people consult a wooden idol and are answered by a stick of wood. A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God."* (NIV)

The Renunciation

The answer was clear and unequivocal. She visited a Christian pastor and renounced her dowsing. She confessed her sins to Jesus Christ and asked God for his forgiveness. Afterwards she discarded all of the occult literature that she possessed and destroyed all dowsing-rods and other devices which she had crafted from different materials.

A Clear Sign: The Broken Dowsing-rod

Finally she went to her closet in order to get her most valuable dowsing-rod, which was made out of silver. But when she opened the closet she found her valuable silver dowsing-rod lying broken in the closet. God had spoken a clear message.

Delivering Trust in God

After that experience this couple asked God: "Lord, now you are our healer and helper. We commit our lives and our health fully to you. Amen!" They then removed all protecting devices which they had put up at different places. Both assured me: "We are healthy and enjoy it." I wanted to know from the lady: "Did you experience any burden or bondage that came as a result of using the dowsing-rod?" She answered: "I experienced strong depressions, but now I am free." And she added: "The dowsing-rod often manifested such a strong power in both of my hands that I had difficulties to hold on to it. Today I know that this power does not come from God. I am thankful to God that He has delivered me from being a medium and from being thus gifted. For this I thank Jesus Christ from the bottom of my heart."

Dear reader, perhaps you will say, "I cannot share your opinion about the power behind oscillating and the divining-rod. At most I am ready to classify this as a border area."

Christians Are No Fence-sitters

Dear reader, real Christians are no fence-sitters. Who can determine exactly where the borders run?. Be careful, fence-sitters live dangerously!

Wanted, Chauffeur

There is a story about a certain rich lady who was looking for a new chauffeur. She took out a large advertisement in the newspaper. Three very experienced men applied. The lady invited the first applicant, a handsome young man, into her office and asked him, "How close to a deep chasm on the side of the road would you dare to drive your car?" Striking a proud pose, the young man answered, "Madam, I am an excellent driver. In my experience of over sixty-thousand miles I have not had one accident. Without any qualms I would drive within one meter of the precipice." Hearing this answer,

the lady requested the young man to wait in the next room.

Brave Driver

The second applicant was then called into her office. He, too, was an excellent driver and could proudly show a driving-career without any accidents. In answer to her question how close to a chasm he would drive his car, he replied without hesitation, "Madam, you can trust me. I have already mastered many a difficult situation. I can assure you that I would safely drive you within 50 centimeters of the precipice without anything happening." He, too, was requested to wait in the next room.

Safety First!

There was only one more man sitting outside. He seemed to be rather timid. He had a sun-tanned face and grey hair. He must have spent a lot of time on the road. He, too, was asked the same question, "How close to a deep chasm on the side of the road would you dare to drive your car?" With a grave face he answered, "Madam, I know only one basic rule: Safety first! I would remain as far away from the precipice as possible." The new chauffeur had been found!

Border Areas Are Dangerous

Perhaps you, too, are of the opinion that certain areas of the sample collection are harmless. Perhaps you classify the divining-rod, or whatever else it may be, as a 'border area.' What harm is there in it? Border areas are very dangerous. At night and in a fog it is often very difficult to determine the course of the border exactly. Whoever suddenly finds himself on the enemy's side, finds it out too late. Christians are no fence-sitters, especially when it has to do with such dangerous and treacherous areas. Let us rather remain on firm ground where we are assured of Jesus' protection all of the time. Whoever ventures forward out of curiosity is looking for trouble.

Graphology, Clairvoyance

Graphology

Graphology is the attempt to interpret the character from handwriting. Quite often the graphologist is clairvoyantly gifted. Many of them know about their clairvoyant capabilities; the others are not conscious of them. Clairvoyance belongs to the realm of the occult.

Clairvoyance

Interpreting character from a person's handwriting is to be rejected as soon as it is noticed that is being influenced by clairvoyance because we are then entering a dangerous realm.

Spiritualism

What do we understand by Spiritualism?

Spiritualism

"The scope of claimed Spiritualist phenomena is listed in the general 'definitions' adopted by the National Spiritualist Association of Churches in 1914. Definition 5 reads:

The Phenomena of Spiritualism

> *'The Phenomena of Spiritualism consists of Prophecy, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Gift of Tongues, Laying on of Hands, Healing, Visions, Trance, Apport, Levitation, Raps, Automatic and Independent Writings and Paintings Voice, Materialization, Photography, Psychometric, and other manifestation proving the continuity of life as demonstrated through the Physical and Spiritual senses and faculties of man.' – Spiritualist Manual, p.37"* (2)

LeRoy Froom in his book 'Spiritualism Today' quotes extensively from spiritualists and other authors. He explains the position of spiritualism very well:

An Attack on Christianity

> *"The 'spirits' of Spiritualism, and their exponents, attack the very foundations of Christianity itself by denying the inspiration and authority of Holy Scrip-*

ture, denying the deity of Jesus Christ as the second person of the Godhead, denying the reality and sovereignty of His judgment, denying His second personal advent, denying His own literal resurrection and His power to resurrect all men at the last day, denying the actuality of sin and the need for and reality of redemption and denying the ultimate destruction of all unrepentant sinners. That disavowal is decisive.

An Attack On Moral Law

Spiritualism denies the basic distinction between right and wrong, making a mockery of the plainest principles of morality. Spiritualism and the 'spirits' deny human accountability for wrong and divine punishment for sin – picturing the path of the sinner as the highway to heaven instead of recognizing it to be the road to perdition. Spiritualism thus breaks down the barriers erected by God to guard truth, purity, and sound doctrine by declaring that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution, no heaven, and no hell.

The Source of Spiritualism

Spiritualism undermines moral law and divine government by teaching that natural desire is man's highest law, and that man is accountable only to himself. It undermines the marriage institution by advocating free love and condoning spiritual affinities and illicit alliances. There is only one conclusion that can rightly be drawn from

the foregoing: Such teaching comes from beneath, not from above; such teaching is of Satan, not of God." (3)

Why Is Spiritualism So Attractive?

Spiritualism has set out on a victory campaign. The question is, however, why do so many people seek their wanted information through spiritualism? It seems that the principal psychic practices have a strong attraction because we are told that many people have an

opportunity to communicate with those that have passed away, whom they have loved so much. Especially lonely and bereaved men and women perceive this as a source of help and great comfort.

The Spiritualism Claim

What is the message of spiritualism today? We are told that death is only a small step into a better and favorable existence. The crucial question for all of us is this: Is this claim of spiritualism true or false? If it is true then spiritualism is the grandest and best truth that was given to mourning humanity. But if it is false then it is a masterful deception and we will ultimately be disappointed despite our sweet memories and hopes.

Messages through Mediums

Leslie M. LeCron and Jean Bordeaux make the following comments concerning spiritualism:

> *"When in a trance…the medium seems to come under the control of another personality, purportedly the spirit of a departed soul and a genuine medium undoubtedly believes the 'control' to be a spiritual entity.*
>
> *"In the trance, the medium often enters a cataleptic state marked by extreme rigidity. The control then takes over, the voice may change completely…and the supposed spirit answers the questions of the sitter, telling of the things 'on the other plane' and giving messages from those who have 'passed over.'" (4.5)*

God Gives the Answer

The Bible, the Word of God, however, gives us the wanted answer. You can decide for yourself whether this claim is true or false - but it cannot be both.

To begin with we find this important information in the Bible:

Don't Ask Mediums

"Now the (Holy) Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons." (1.Timothy 4:1)

"So why are you trying to find out the future by consulting witches and mediums? Don't listen to their whisperings and mutterings. Can the living find out the future from the dead? Why not ask your God? 'Check these witches' words against the word of God!' he says.' If their messages are different than mine, it is because I have not sent them; for they have no light or truth in them.'" (Isaiah 8:19, 20, Living Bible)

Ask God

This is a clear statement from God. If a person, who practices the psychic arts, tells us that he is able to speak with the spirits of the dead, we should answer him: There is no need to ask the dead on behalf of the living! In fact, there is just one sure way: Consult the message of the Bible and consult the answer that God gives.

The Dead Cannot Come Back

What is the revelation and the truth that God gives us with regard to the dead? Is there a possibility that the dead can come back and speak to us?

Here is God's clear answer:

"As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more." (Job 7:9, 10, King James)

What Happens When We Die?

If we really want to know for sure what happens when we die, the Bible gives the only true answer. It says that at death the human capability to think comes to a permanent end.

"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returned to his earth; in that very day his

thoughts perish." (Psalm 146:3, 4, King James)

The Dead Cannot Think or Remember

God's answer is clear. God as the life giver knows what happens when a man dies. With Him there can be no mistake. In His written Word God tells us that the dead cannot think at all and the dead have no memory whatsoever.

> *"For the living at least knows that they will die; but the dead know nothing; they don't even have their memories. Whatever they did in their lifetime – loving, hating, envying – is long gone, and they have no part in anything here on earth any more." (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, Living Bible)*

This is what the Bible tells us. The dead know nothing. The dead cannot remember, love or hate, they do not know, they do not think.

Death Is Like a Sleep?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God sheds further light on this issue. He compares death with a sleep. Lazarus the friend of Jesus had died. Listen to what Jesus explained to his disciples, when this had happened:

> *"Then he said, 'Our friend Lazarus has gone to sleep, but now I will go and awaken him!' The disciples, thinking Jesus meant Lazarus was having a good night's rest, said, 'That means he is getting better!' But Jesus meant Lazarus had died. Then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.'" (John 11:11-14a, Living Bible)*

Two Signs of a Good Sleep

What does it mean when Jesus says: "He has gone to sleep?" When we have a good sleep we don't remember, we don't know what has happened around us, we don't know how much time has passed; we don't know how long we have slept. And after a good sleep there comes the awakening and we rise up again to do our work.

No Disturbance until The Resurrection

This is the **"Good News"**: Jesus compared death with sleep. In other words, we don't know anything. Nothing can disturb us, we cannot do anything, we cannot be tempted to sin - we lie in the grave until the resurrection day. After death, however, there comes the resurrection.

Already in the Old Testament Job, the man of God speaks about the fact that death is a sleep, but at the end there comes the awakening or the resurrection.

> *"But man dies, and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? As waters fall from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, so man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake, or be roused out of his sleep." (Job 14:10-12)*

The Time of the Resurrection Day

You may ask: When will be the resurrection? At the end when Jesus comes again in power and in glory. This will be the end to the death sleep for all who have trusted Him.

> *"Don't be surprised! Indeed the time is coming when all the dead in their graves shall hear the voice of God's son, and shall rise again – those who have done good, to eternal life; and those who have continued in evil, to judgment." (John 5:28, 29, Living Bible)*

The creator of the universe tells us that God will reward and call those who have done good not when they die but on the resurrection day. It is at this day, a day that lies in the future, that they will receive eternal life.

Eternal Life Not At Death

God's plan is indeed very consistent and makes sense. If men would obtain their reward immediately when they die, why should there be a resurrection at the end of time? If people enter into paradise right at their

death, why should Jesus come to this earth a second time to take his people to heaven if they are already there? Why does the Bible teach that there is a judgment at the end of time if a person has already received his reward at his death?

A Religion Teacher Has a Problem

A lady who was a religion teacher studied the Bible with me. When we had come to the subject of what happens after death, she was very surprised. For the first time she recognized that God tells us that the dead don't know anything, that a dead person can't think and that Jesus compares death with sleep.

The lady then told me:

"I have a big problem to accept this teaching of the Bible. To me the facts of my personal experiences are different."

The lady then made this confession:

The Confession of a Medium

"My father died several years ago. I am a medium and I am able to contact my dead father and speak to him. The fact that I can communicate with my father, who has passed away, is the proof for me personally that the Bible cannot be correct on this particular teaching."

So we turned again to the clear passages of Scripture:

The Clear Teaching of the Bible

"But the dead know nothing; they don't even have their memories." (Ecclesiastes 9:5, Living Bible) And the person that "goes down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more." (Job 7:9, 10)

But the lady told me with deep conviction:

My Dead Father Is My Helper

"I know that my father lives in a better world. He tells me about his good experiences in this new world. I recognize his voice and he tells me all the little details that only he knows about his and my life. There can't be any doubt. He is my father and he is greatly interested in my well-being. I ask him questions such as 'what shall I do' and 'how shall I decide in such an such a matter' and he gives me answers and good counsel and all his predictions come true even in minor details. I am even encouraged by my father to read the Bible. I can depend on the counsel of my father. He is my good helper. - That is the reason why I can't accept the teaching of the Bible. The facts of my experience are at great variance with the statements of the Bible. I believe what I have experienced."

Millions Believe The Dead Are Not Dead

There are millions of people who have the same opinion, they say with deep conviction: With the help of a medium you can speak with a departed person. There is plenty of evidence that you have a real chance to come in contact with every person that has passed away through a spiritualism medium and there is the possibility to communicate with dead persons. These persons want to tell us: The dead are not really dead. They live, and we are able to speak with them, they can give us good counsel, and if you can speak with a departed beloved person you are comforted in such a way that you no longer miss anything.

But is this the truth? The Word of God gives the answer to this important question.

Spirits of Devils Are

"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles…" (Revelation 16:14, King James)

According to the Word of God there was war in heaven. Lucifer and his followers fought against Jesus Christ. Jesus, however, prevailed. Lucifer and his followers, the fallen angels, had to leave heaven. Now their working place is here on our planet. These fallen angels, the Bible calls them "the spirits of the devils," are beings of high intelligence. They can perform miracles. The Bible tells us that these miracles are so powerful and convincing that all who don't know or accept the clear teachings of Scripture will be deceived.

Deceiving Miracles

Satan Comes Like an Angel of Light

If the Devil would tell the people: I am Satan, I have come to deceive you, and now I am working a miracle so that you will follow me, he would have a hard time because nobody would like to be deceived by a being that has evil intentions. The Devil, God' adversary, is clever and has the power to disguise himself as an angel of light. The Bible, however, warns us:

> *"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (2. Corinthians 11:13 ,14)*

You will find more information about the Devil in this book in **Appendix 1** entitled **"The Devil His Origin. - His Intentions and His Fate," pp. 202, ff.**

But let me come back to the story with the lady.

Even after reading all the Bible texts she still had a problem.

Her argument was:

I Really Speak With My Father

"I am nevertheless convinced that I speak with my father because I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that it is his voice, and I know his voice. Furthermore, only he knows details about our family and about my person, details that nobody could know except my

father. When I speak with my departed father then it must be my father. I can't believe that this should be a deception."

Dear reader let me ask you: Can the Devil deceive? Is the voice of the deceased person proof enough that we really speak with the loved person? This is a crucial question of great importance!

A Voice Imitator Fooled the Queen

As you know there are persons who are able to imitate the voice of a person in such an excellent manner that you have the impression you are listening to the real person. Not long ago Queen Elisabeth II. received a phone call. She was surprised that the prime minister of Canada talked with her at a rather unusual time. They talked for a long time and the Queen made final arrangements for an important visit over the telephone. But then there was a big surprise. The Queen had not spoken with the prime minister himself. A wag had imitated the voice of the prime minister - and even the Queen didn't realize it.

Fallen Angels Can Imitate

If you mean that the voice that you hear in a spiritualism séance must be the voice of the deceased person that is no proof at all. The fallen angels, i.e. the spirits, who are mentioned in the Bible, have had time enough to learn the voice of a person in such a way that they can imitate the voice so perfectly that it is impossible to detect the fraud. And if the voice tells special details from the life of the departed person and from the life of the listener, then he is able to tell this piece of information only because he has observed and thus is knowledgeable of all these details. In other words, these facts are no proof that we are indeed talking with the dead.

Secret Services Can Predict

But you may wonder: How can a departed person make predictions that become true? Let me give you an example: Governments have their secret services. The

secret services have their secret agents located in all important places. These secret agents pass on their reports and findings to their headquarters. According to all the details that have been put together the specialists at the headquarters are able to know, for instance, that on a special day at a special place, an assassination of an important person will take place.

Superior Intelligences at Work

In a similar manner only much more sophisticated, the Devil and his helpers watch people day and night. They know more than we know and they are able to put facts together. Why should it be impossible that they can give predictions in such a way that these predictions really come true?

False Predictions at a Spiritualism Séance

But aren't the predictions that are given at a spiritualism séance really proof that the dead are still alive and they knowing more than we do? Listen again to the Bible, it teaches the truth: The dead don't know anything!

> *"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward; but the memory of them is lost." (Ecclesiastes 9:5)*

When I had explained these facts to the lady, many thoughts went through her mind.

After a while she confessed:

Is The Devil Fooling Us?

"I am a medium. I can talk with departed persons. I have been a great help to many persons because they have had the chance to speak with their departed relatives as even I was able to communicate with my deceased father. But now I am beginning to realize that what I have been practicing is in opposition to the

teaching of the Bible."

After she paused for a while she asked this question:

"Are there passages in scripture that tells us that God does not accept the services of a spiritualism medium? I am very interested to know all the facts about this practice."

Indeed there is such a clear statement in the Bible. For a fallen angel it is quite easy for him to masquerade so as to give the impression that he is another person - even a loved one.

> *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (2. Corinthians 11:14)*

A Spiritualism Séance in the Bible

In the Bible there is one report of an experience that King Saul had where he participated in a spiritualism séance. The report is found in 1. Samuel 28:

No Answer From God

> *"Now Samuel had died… And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, 'Seek out for me a woman who is a medium that I may go to her and inquire of her.' And his servants said to him, 'Behold, there is a medium at Endor.'" (Vs. 3a, 6. 7 RSV)*

The King Visits a Medium

> *"So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments, and went, he and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, 'Divine for me by a spirit, and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you.'…Then the woman said, 'Whom shall I bring up for you?' He said, 'Bring up Samuel for me.' When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice…The king said to her, 'Have no fear, what do you see?' And the woman said to Saul, 'I see a god coming up out of the earth.' He said to her, 'What is his ap-*

pearance?' And she said, 'An old man is coming up; and he is wrapped in a robe.' And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and did obeisance." (V. 8.11.12a.13.14)

You Cannot Speak With a Dead Person

Keeping those other clear statements of Scripture in mind, that we have just studied, we have to ask the important question: Did Saul actually speak with the real Samuel? Absolutely No! How could he speak with a dead person who is quietly resting in his grave, when Samuel has, according to God's Word, no knowledge of what was taking place? How could God send a message to Saul through a dead man when he had already refused to communicate with him earlier? Why should God communicate through a dead person if he has specifically forbidden any such practice?

"A man or a woman who is a medium or a wizard shall be put to death: they shall be stoned with stones, their blood shall be upon them." (Leviticus 20:27)

Obviously God cannot contradict himself. Something else must have taken place. The appearance that claimed to be Samuel was not he. It was an intelligent being that played the part in a spiritualism drama. And God has forbidden this.

"Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD."

"If a person turns to mediums and wizards, playing the harlot after them, I will set my face against that person, and will cut him off from among his people." (Leviticus 19:3; 20:6)

The biblical report goes on:

God Is Silent – Satan Speaks

"Then Samuel said to Saul, 'Why have you disturbed me in bringing me up?' Saul answered, 'I am in great distress; for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams; therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do.' And Samuel said, 'Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has turned from you and become your enemy?'" (1. Samuel28:15, 16)

Satan Makes a Prediction

The biblical report continues and tells us a prediction upon Saul and his sons. The medium told King Saul:

"'The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand, and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me; the LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines." (V. 17-19).

Saul and his sons had to die because Saul took part in a spiritualism séance where he tried to come in contact with the dead. In reality he had made contact with the Devil, and for this he had to pay a price - his death. This is the report of the Bible:

God's Disapproval: Death Sentence

"So Saul died for his unfaithfulness; he was unfaithful to the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance, and did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD slew him, and turned the kingdom over to David the Son of Jesse." (1. Chronicles 10:13, 14)

God's disapproval of spiritualism practices is unmistakable and absolutely clear.

> *"Do not defile yourselves by consulting mediums and wizards, for I am Jehovah your God." (Leviticus 19:31, Living Bible)*

> *"I will set my face against anyone who consults mediums and wizards instead of me and I will cut that person off from his people." (Leviticus 20:6, Living Bible)*

> *"A medium or a wizard – whether man or woman – shall surely be stoned to death. They have caused their own doom." (Leviticus 20:27, Living Bible)*

A Great Shock

After we had studied the Bible on these important questions the lady was quite shocked.

She realized: "King Saul had to pay a price because he didn't follow the clear instructions of God. I too did the wrong thing because I didn't know the warning and the clear will of God. It was a great mistake to believe that I can speak with departed persons. I didn't know the teaching of the Bible that the dead cannot think and that they don't know anything."

And then she said: "Even though I am a religion teacher I have never thoroughly studied Scripture for myself. But now I have learned what different passages of Scripture clearly teach on this issue and now I know that according to the Bible the dead cannot think and that they do not know anything."

In Bad Trouble

After a while the lady continued: "I honestly have to confess: I am a medium - and I am suffering from depressions and suicidal thoughts. In fact I am daily plagued by these thoughts and they become stronger every day. I find it hard to withstand them any longer."

And then she asked: "Is there any help for me?"

Yes - there is help. Not only for her but for anyone who is willing to be helped.

God's Love Gives the Best

The answer can be found with God. God is love. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, while living on earth, has demonstrated the love of God. He was even willing to die for our sins and he died a cruel death on the cross. But he is risen and now he is our intercessor and mediator in heaven. God is eager to give us all good things and if we are in trouble he wants to give us all the help we need. There is one fact that is absolutely sure and that is: Depressions and suicidal thoughts are no gift of God. If God helps you, he wants to help you because he loves you. And his love is free because it is real love. And for an act done out of real love you never have to pay. God is waiting for you, even now! And God is waiting for your response.

The Devil Is Asking a High Price

When I told this to the lady, I said: "Your problems with depressions and suicidal thoughts come from the Devil. As a medium you are working together with Satan and his fallen angels. The help you get from those intelligent spirits cost something. You have to pay a price, and the price that the Devil asks for is always something bad. Your bad feelings and all the trouble in your life is the best proof that you are practicing something that God has forbidden and that the Word of God calls a sin. And for a sin you have always to pay a price sooner or later."

The lady finally realized: "I am now able to find out the truth about my life. I have to admit that until today I have believed a delusion. But I still want to know: Is there any help for me in my situation?"

Complete Deliverance through God

The lady was willing to accept the teaching of the Bible. She was willing to give up all spiritualism practices. I then prayed with the lady that God should

give her the strength to practice the **"The Path to Freedom."** I explained to her the three steps of deliverance through Jesus Christ. The lady was willing to practice every detail of these three steps. And God gave her complete victory. She experienced a complete deliverance of all of her depressions and suicidal thoughts. God made it possible that she was freed from satanic influences and she began a new and better life. She is now experiencing the inner peace, and the joy, and the victories of a Christian life with Jesus.

(Please read in my book the chapters: **"Deliverance through Jesus" pp.157 ff.** and **"The Path to Freedom" pp.184 ff.**)

A friend of mine, George Vandeman, the well known founder of the TV-Program "IT IS WRITTEN" a lifelong diligent student of the Word of God, explains in connection with our Bible study:

The Masquerade of Fallen Angels

"Let me say it as kindly and as earnestly as I know how: According to the Word of God these spirits which come to us and claim to be the dear ones taken away by death, are not dead people. They are not living people. They are not people at all! They are fallen angels masquerading in the form of our loved ones!"

Vandeman reports:

"A friend of mine was making Christian calls in Scotland. But in one home this Christian worker was surprised to be met with cold reserve by the lady of the house. The conversation, however, seemed to invite the lady's confidence, and soon she explained her bitterness toward all religion.

A Message through Séance

It seems that during the war years she had received a cable from the government stating that her husband was missing in action. For many long months she waited with no word. Then well-meaning friends urged her to attempt to contact her husband through the séance, for the reasoned that no doubt he was dead.

A Big Fraud

She felt that a measure of comfort might be hers if she could make contact. And to her amazement she saw the likeness of her loved one. She recognized his voice. They talked over many personal things.

A Disillusioned Woman

But months later her husband, alive and well, walked unannounced through the front door. He had never been dead or even seriously wounded. Unfortunately, this disillusioned woman became bitter toward religion because of the evident deception, the shameless advantage taken of her sorrow by wicked and lying spirits. Remember? "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles."

No wonder Paul wrote:

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Vandeman warns:

Only Jesus Gives the Best Answer

I want to be kind, I have nothing but love in my heart for those who have been sincere in their ***attempt to find comfort in the realm of the psychic. But*** *the powers back of these phenomena take unfair advantage of men and women. They come with caresses and words of love when we are weak and sorrowful. That is why I feel compelled to speak as I do!"* (6)

Glass-Tilting and Table-Turning

Glass Tilting

In many circles today 'glass-tilting' and 'table-turning' are being played as mere 'party games.' More and more teachers are teaching their students these practices in order to give those further possibilities in obtaining desired information or making the right decisions. Glass-tilting and table-turning are perceived as harmless on the one hand but nevertheless these are exciting ways of obtaining much-sought-after answers on the others.

Dangerous Hostile Territory

Let us not deceive ourselves. God does not use these ways and means for imparting information. No one other else than Satan himself is offering us his help in this way and we will have to pay a stiff price for this service from the Devil. I urgently warn you not to participate in this in any way, not even as 'only a spectator.' We are treading on dangerous 'hostile territory.' Such 'contact with the enemy' could cost us an awful lot.

A Deaf-mute Woman's Report

Gaby, a young deaf-mute, once related to me her dramatic experiences which she had had with 'glass-tilting.' A woman who had learned sign-language acted as interpreter during the interview.

Seeking God

When Gaby was an older student, she started to seek God. She had a great desire to become acquainted with God and started seeking the possibility to come into contact with God. To be sure, Gaby possessed a Bible but found it difficult to understand everything. There was no one in her vicinity that was able to be of any help to her in her search for God.

An Exciting Party Game

On hearing of Gaby's concern, one of her fellow-students told her about some special 'party game' in which one would be able to come into contact with the spirits. After hearing a more detailed explanation of

this unusual 'party game,' Gaby became very eager to know exactly where the spirits originated from. She then organized a small party at home in her cellar.

Glass Tilting: A Glass Gives the Answers

All of those present sat down around a round table. With a pair of scissors the letters of the alphabet were cut out of paper and then laid onto the table in alphabetical order (Ouija Board). An empty champagne glass was then placed in the middle of the table upside-down. The experienced fellow-student then summoned the spirits to follow his instructions. He first asked the question, "Spirits, are you among us?"

Then each one present was ordered to place his index-finger onto the bottom of the upside-down champagne glass. Suddenly the glass began to move of its own accord and stopped at the 'Yes' of the alphabet sheet. This was the sign that the spirits were present. Following this the participants were then able to ask their questions. To Gaby's great astonishment, who was witnessing such a game of 'Questions and Answers' for the first time, the glass was moving of its own accord without anyone touching it and was pointing out the individual letters of the alphabet. The sequence of the letters being pointed out produced the correct answer to every question being asked.

Gaby was so pleased with this fascinating 'party game' that she then decided to practice it together with her friend at home alone.

Is That A Good Spirit Speaking?

Becoming even more curious and wanting to know who it actually was who was giving the answers, the deaf-mute then asked the spirit, "Who are you?"

The answer she received was the following: "I come from God. I am a good spirit. My task is to advise you aright so that you will be able to make the right decisions." Then the spirit stated emphatically, "God

is a God of love! God is a God of love! God wishes you only the best in every respect."

This message set Gaby's mind at ease.

The Test of Obedience

A short time later on there was an unusual test of obedience for every participant. Everyone was commanded to come to a 'séance' (session) one certain morning instead of attending classes in school. Indeed, not one of the students was missing from the séance!

A Contract with Consequences

Gaby continued her report, "The spirit informed us: You have obeyed God's command and have thus passed the test of obedience. You are now ready to 'obey' God."

Furthermore the good spirit promised us, 'Herewith have you entered into an oral contract and you now belong to the Kingdom of God for ever and ever!'"

Goal at Last

With this message all of Gaby's doubts disappeared. Gladdened by this news, she stated, "At last I have now gained access to God! Glass-tilting has provided me with the long-sought-for possibility of gaining advice in every situation directly from God Himself!"

However directly after this 'test of obedience' something completely unexpected occurred; the champagne glass became agitated.

A Broken Glass Brings Bad Luck

Gaby continued, "I myself was witness of how suddenly the glass wildly spun around the table at a terrific speed without being hurled off of the table and onto the floor. All of us became thoroughly frightened."

Then her fellow-student who was directing the séance declared, "The spirit has now become angry. I urgently warn you, should the glass fall onto the floor and break into pieces; no one should try to pick up the

pieces during the séance as that could have very unpleasant consequences for that person."

The Spirit Becomes Angry

To their great astonishment those present then experienced how the 'good spirit' suddenly began giving angry and hot-tempered answers. At this Gaby began to have her first doubts as to whether this 'good spirit' was really the 'Voice of God.'

The Fun Is No Longer Fun!

The deaf-mute then continued, "The glass was indeed hurled off of the table and broke into a thousand pieces on the floor. No one dared to pick up the pieces. Everyone had the feeling that something sinister had taken place."

Gaby explained, "I became so frightened that I made the decision to never again participate in 'glass-tilting.'"

Is It All Only A Trick?

Having heard about his students' 'glass-tilting,' a skeptical teacher was of the opinion that in 'glass-tilting' the glass was only being moved by some trick. The teacher therefore suggested organizing a 'glass-tilting' so that he would be able to prove on the spot that it was all based on only a cunning deception. Gaby declined his suggestion, saying she was very frightened and explained to the teacher that from her own experience there were inexplicable, supernatural powers at work here. Nevertheless the teacher persisted in his preconceived opinion: "That it is only a trick based on a cunning deception."

A Pastor Who Knows His Bible

Not knowing what else to do, Gaby finally turned to her religion teacher, a devout Lutheran pastor. She told him about her experiences and posed to him those questions which had constantly been plaguing her. The pastor opened the Holy Scriptures and requested Gaby to read the texts in Leviticus 19: 26 and 31:

"Do not practice divination or sorcery."

God's Command

"Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God." (NIV)

The pastor challenged Gaby to read another further statement of God's opinion of the matter:

God's Damning Judgment

"When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so." Deuteronomy 18:9-14 (NIV)

The Great Deception

Gaby told me, "After I had read these statements in the Holy Scriptures I was deeply terrified for then I realized that the 'good spirit' had actually been Satan's mouthpiece!"

It Gets Worse

From day to day Gaby was becoming more agitated and was living in constant fear. This agitation increased in intensity; most of the time she had deep anxieties, suffered from depression, was overcome by suicidal thoughts and finally during one vacation she even tried to commit suicide.

Life-saving

In His Omnipotence and Love, God prevented her attempt to commit suicide from succeeding. That Gaby's life was spared seemed to Gaby to be a great miracle. However, she was still being plagued by anxieties and a great inner agitation. Gaby changed her place of residence, but even that brought her no relief.

A Good Decision

Shortly after having returned from her vacation, Gaby received a telephone call from her sister (by means of a writing telephone). Her sister informed her that a devout deaf-mute was conducting a series of Bible studies in her home. Gaby was delighted to hear that. She immediately looked up her sister and started participating in the weekly Bible studies with great interest. What especially pleased her was that the man was explaining everything in sign-language.

Profitable Bible Study

As much as time allowed, Gaby now took up her own Bible and soon recognized through her study of the Bible that God is a God of love and sent us His Son Jesus Christ, who has become our Deliverer and Savior. Through her study of the Holy Scriptures she came to know what the will of God is and recognized what she had done wrong.

A Hopeless Battle

Nevertheless Gaby's anxieties and inner agitation was becoming stronger and stronger especially whenever she thought of her promise which she had given to the 'good spirit,' for she had indeed carried out that special oral surrender of her life after having passed the test of obedience. Of course Gaby wanted to become free of her tormenting anxieties and agitated feelings. She battled against them with all her might, she was not able to accomplish this alone.

The Distress of Doubt

Gaby pictured her distressful situation as follows: "To my own astonishment I discovered that I would become angry whenever the time came for Bible study and I began to rebel against it more and more.

Increasingly a spirit of doubt came over me with the result that I increasingly attempted to critically place the statements of the Bible in question by trying to prove that the statements of the Bible are not based on the truth."

You Must Decide For Jesus

Gaby continued, "The deaf-mute man conducting the Bible studies came to the conclusion that I was not only being influenced by a good spirit but by another evil spirit as well. The influences alternated rapidly, one time my regretting the evil deeds committed, the next time my battling against the statements of the Bible. Unfortunately the evil spirit had me so completely in his control that I stubbornly remained unyielding in my negative attitude. The deaf-mute man then declared to me, "You have two sides; a good spirit and an evil spirit are battling over you." He then commanded me, "Make your decision for Jesus, for He alone is the true Victor."

Gaby confessed, "At last I perceived that I could only receive the decisive help I needed from Jesus, if I wished to experience deliverance from the power of evil."

Quitting By Choosing a New World

The deaf-mute girl expressed the wish to be prayed for so that she could at last experience deliverance. Gaby wanted to abolish and annul the dedication of her life to the 'good spirit.' She not only wanted to withdraw from the power of Satan, but the one desire of her life was to entrust herself to a new Lord. This new Lord was to be the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

God Hears Prayer and Liberates

A new prayer circle was formed, composed of a pastor, a young couple as well as a few other devout Christians. They all prayed earnestly for Gaby in her presence. There was a difficult wrestling with the Powers of Darkness. At last Gaby perceived the final

deliverance and the victory over the devilish subjection through Jesus Christ.

Baptism as a Visible Decision

The deaf-mute girl took surrendering her life to Jesus seriously. She had read in the Bible that the Early Christian baptism through immersion also belongs to the surrender of her life and her 'new birth' as the Holy Scriptures calls it. Gaby wanted to make her decision for Jesus and discipleship visible as well. She wished to be baptized as quickly as possible, just as Jesus had let Himself be baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist during His time as an example for us. A short time after her great experience of deliverance Gaby was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Since that time she has been a cheerful Christian in the church which she had visibly joined through her baptism.

Deaf-mutes Seeking the Wrong Help

In the long interview Gaby further informed me, "Among the deaf-mutes, as well, there are many who are actively participating in 'glass-tilting' and 'table-turning' and other occult practices. These people regularly have the desire to receive help and council in this way."

An Urgent Warning

As I could no longer bear these conditions and as life appeared senseless and I could not find help anywhere, I finally attempted to commit suicide. God was gracious to me in His great Love and prevented my life from ending in such a way."

Furthermore Gaby emphasized, "I can only warn each and every one of you urgently. It is a cunning deception. The Devil pretends to be a 'good spirit,' but actually Satan only wants to bring people into his control in order to make them unhappy in the end. I, too, was once in this terrible predicament. Long after my occult practices into which I had fully unsuspectingly

fallen, I suffered from anxieties, burden and depression.

Complete Deliverance Only Through Jesus

With eyes beaming and cheerfully smiling, Gaby then declared, "After a long and tormenting period of mental suffering, I have gotten to know the living, almighty and loving God. Jesus has completely liberated me from all of my burdens. Now I am a happy, well-adjusted and cheerful person. I have no other wish in life than that many others who might read this interview may, in the same way, be freed from the bonds of Satan through the great Victor Jesus Christ in order to then be able to live well-adjusted, cheerful lives in thankfulness to God."

No Time to Lose

Dear reader, I encourage you to confess to Jesus all the offences against God which you have committed as sin and ask Him for His pardon. Jesus is quite willing to forgive you. He is only waiting for you to come to Him. At any time—right now— you can come to Jesus. If you do not do it now, then it is only a delaying tactic. Jesus wants to and can help you right now. Turn your back on the Devil and trustingly turn to Jesus Christ. Jesus' assistance and forgiveness is available to you, too. Lay claim to them now. If you want to know how to do this, please read chapter: **"The Path to Freedom" pp.184 ff.**

Magic, Sorcery, the Devil's Books of Charms

Magic, Sorcery

Let us now talk about the realm of magic, the sins of sorcery. This has nothing to do with sleight-of-hand which is only finger dexterity; this has to do with much more.

Black And White Magic

For instance, we have 'Black Magic' and 'White Magic,' or sorcery. In all seriousness a certain man once told me, "'Black Magic' is of the Devil; I don't want to have anything to do with it. However, in

'White Magic' you pray a 'Paternoster' (The Lord's Prayer); that is from God." This man has fallen for a trick. In reality the Devil is behind 'White Magic' as well as 'Black Magic.' In 'Black Magic' you pray to the Devil directly; in 'White Magic' you also call on the Devil, but by using pious Christian symbols. The Devil always utilizes just enough truth in order to make the lie even more believable. Whoever lets caution prevail in the one realm and refuses to dabble in this because it is obviously devilish, unknowingly falls for it in the other realm?

Protective Amulet

There are farmers who attach little importance to the use of vaccines against hoof-and-mouth disease. They would rather trust in 'White Magic' and utilize a protective and preventive amulet which they swear by because of its great effectiveness.

A Faith-Healer

Is the Devil a miracle healer? Is such a thing possible? Many people have already been in the Devil's office without even knowing it. Magic spells are being used everywhere. Only the name changes: 'Sympathy,' 'Custom,' 'Do Something for It,' 'Faith-healing.' Here the Devil is being called upon for assistance every time.

Magic Healing

It is so easy to use a magic spell on a physical ailment. Why should you undergo an operation, when the suffering can be painlessly relieved through occult

magic spells which always remain secret? You can get rid of migraine head-aches in this manner. Many parents have had rickets (the English disease) in their children simply 'prayed away.' One spell tells us to lay three apples on the window-sill when sick and to then wait until they dry out. Our sickness will also dry out in the same way as the apples do. Healing through magic spells is many sided, this is impressive!

God Cannot Be Ordered To Do Anything

The Devil disguises himself as an angel of light. He pretends to be a benefactor of mankind. He offers his help in many various forms. From the Devil we can receive good health on demand. God does not let Himself be ordered around by mortal human beings. Or do we believe that we can give God an order by simply saying, "Dear God, You must heal me!" Did Jesus Christ ever give His Father orders? Before His crucifixion Jesus prayed,

> *"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42)*

We cannot give God any orders; even Christ Himself did not do it. The Devil, however, is just waiting for our orders. He virtually offers us his healing miracles, but then he demands his price. His assistance is not free of charge.

A False Connection

The mesmerist prides himself on his capabilities. He supposedly utilizes 'special powers' in order to be able to help others. Who knows exactly where his powers come from? If he is connected with the power from 'below,' then his help is of satanic origin. If he obtains his power from 'above,' no one knows if the has enough power to help every sick person be certain for how many people his power can reach and it would be fateful, if additional power from 'below' were to become effective in me.

Moonspells

Then there is the power of the moon. Many farmers are very careful to do only certain work in the fields and gardens at certain positions of the moon; otherwise the harvest will be endangered. Certain conjurations are undertaken at midnight by full moon. All of these things belong to the sins of sorcery.

Removing Warts

For the removal of warts there are the most unbelievable spells. For instance, you should tie as many knots in a string as there are warts. This string should then be buried in a damp place in your garden. When the string has rotted, the warts will also have disappeared. The whole thing is even more effective when a certain position of the moon is observed and the treatment has been undertaken on a certain day of the week. It is also recommended to recite three 'paternosters' when burying the string. Astonished, many people have reported, "The nonsense-works!" Apparently it is very simple to get rid of warts. Lurking behind this 'nonsense,' however, is the Devil. He is always ready to help in order to then demand his price. With this apparent 'nonsense' we render the Devil a certain obedience for which we must then pay.

The Nonsense Works

Stanching Blood

In the cases of 'blood-stanching' and 'burn-quenching' the Devil also offers us his help and pretends to be a benefactor of mankind. After mysterious incantations bleeding is stanched by calling upon the three highest names and repeating the paternoster. Whoever has severely burned himself, can go to the 'burn-quencher.' After the paternoster a devilish incantation is softly recited, the burned skin is breathed upon and—the pain diminishes and the burned wound completely heals without forming any large scars in a short period of time. The fact that people are really healed here seldom gives rise to any suspicion that God is actually not the helper, but that this help is coming from Satan. People who have thus been helped must render

the Devil his due; they obtain a satanic burden.

Jesus Can Deliver You

Jesus Christ alone can neutralize the Devil's price. He is the Victor and He can be it in your life, too. The subject of superstition and occultism is an extremely tragic topic. Gratifying is the fact that so many people have already experienced wonderful deliverance from their devilish burdens through Jesus Christ. I can testify from my own experience as well as the experience of so many others that Jesus' victorious power can still grant deliverance even today. That is why I am dealing with the subject of superstition, burden and deliverance in this book. Dear reader, it is my heart-felt desire that you, too, could experience deliverance through Jesus Christ. Jesus is willing to help you, if you only allow Him to exercise His power in your live.

Devilish Books of Magic

There are indeed devilish books of magic. The most well-known is "The Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses." Automatically we think of a continuation of the Five Books of Moses in the Bible. This, however, is no continuation of the books of the Bible; it has to do with blasphemous, devilish books of magic, full of magic conjurations. Hidden behind a harmless disguise of pious-sounding titles, the Devil is offering us his assistance.

A few more titles among the most well-known are:

"Romanus' Booklet"

"The Black Raven" (Natural and Sympathetic Means of Healing for Man and Animal)

"Holy Blessings" on Land and Sea

"The True, Fiery Dragon" or Dominion over the Heavenly and Infernal Spirits and over the Powers of Earth and the Heavens

"The True Spiritual Shield" (Containing Very Powerful Blessings and Prayers, Partly Revealed by God, Partly Devised by…!)

"The Book Sealed with Seven Seals" The Greatest Secrets… together with Miraculous Secret Means for Achieving Diverse Purposes

"Guardian Angels" for Protection and Preservation in Great Distress

"School of the Secret Arts" of Magic and Miraculous Powers, the Book of True Practices in Age-old Divine Magic, as Handed Down by the Holy Cabbala and by Elohym

In spite of their touted help these books prove to be nothing more than a source of curses, great discord, severe mental distress and many other burdens.

An Important Recommendation

The best recommendation for the use of such books of magic we can find in the Bible,

"Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas." (Acts 19:18-19)

According to today's exchange rate, the Christians at that time burned their books of magic worth some 50,000 $. That was a fortune! They wanted to have absolutely nothing to do with these things any longer.

Burn or Make Them Unusable

Dear reader, follow this example. Clear out your shelves, take out the books of magic and the occult literature and burn or destroy them, the sooner the better. These publications are sources of discord, of strife and of curses. Do not just simply throw them away; they might fall into the wrong hands. Either bum the books

or make them unusable. Follow the example of those Christians who took their convictions seriously and made a visibly clean break with their fateful habits.

Amulets, Talisman, Invoking the Devil

Amulets

Many people swear by the protective power of amulets. Lifeless objects which have received a special blessing are supposed to protect the bearer from bad luck and misfortune.

An Iron Curtain

The fact is that only a living, almighty God alone is in a position to protect us. God's protection is in no way connected to lifeless objects. From my pastoral counseling I know that the amulet works as an "iron curtain," separating the bearer from God. Those bearing amulets show no great interest in things having to do with God. It is difficult, often even impossible, for them to make a conscious decision for God. Dear reader, ask Jesus to grant you the power to separate yourself from your amulet and to entrust yourself to the protection and care of an almighty and loving God alone.

Talisman

Talisman or good-luck charms are very popular. Four-leaf clovers, old horse-shoes, lucky mascots and many other lucky charms are supposed to bring the good luck we have long hoped for. Many a driver sets great store on continually having his talisman, some kind of stuffed animal, a child's shoe, a miniature chimney-sweep or something similar with him on each and every trip. Such lifeless things can never grant us genuine protection and lasting peace of mind. God alone is the giver of every good gift. Put your trust in God; He will never disappoint you.

'Heavenly Insurance'

To be mentioned here as well are such things as 'Heavenly insurance,' 'fire insurance,' 'consecrated wood,' etc.

'Heavenly insurance' is especially in demand during times of war. Usually it is carried on some part of the body and promises the bearer protection of life and limb. Other 'Heavenly insurance' is read aloud and promises help in difficult life situations. It is shocking to learn that God is not behind these promises of protection. Consciously or unconsciously, you are placing yourself under the Devil's protection.

'Fire Insurance'

There are farmers and house-owners who see no necessity in taking out any fire-insurance because they have already placed great trust in their own 'fire insurance.' The so-called 'consecrated wood' is supposed to grant reliable protection against fire. These charms are usually kept under the beams of the roof. Whoever expects help and protection from these magic charms is actually accepting the Devil's offer of help.

Calling On the Devil

Also belonging to the sample collection is 'knocking on wood three times' in order to prevent accidents, misfortune or illness whenever such things are being talked about just at that moment. Whoever expresses a wish, taps his finger on wood three times and says, "Knock on wood!" is actually calling upon the Devil with this saying. These things are in no way harmless customs.

Hypnosis

Hypnosis

Dear reader, never let you be hypnotized, even if it is only done just in fun. It is extremely dangerous and it is against the will of God for any other person to assume control over your will, even if it is only for a few moments. God has given each and every human being a personal will of his own. We possess a free will

of our own. In giving us such a free will, God was running a great risk. We are capable of deciding for God or against Him. We can allow God to help us or we can seek help from Satan. In His omnipotence God could

influence us in our free-will decision and coerce us to make a certain decision. This, however, God does not do. He kindly requests us, He invites us, but He does not coerce us. With the Devil it is quite the opposite; he tries to win influence over our will by any means; that is why hypnosis is so dangerous.

Careful!

A leading doctor once told me that he utilized hypnosis in his practice. He was of the opinion, "Hypnosis can provide great alleviation, especially during a difficult birth, for instance." He had acquired his knowledge of hypnosis during his studies at the Freeburg University, Germany. He confessed, however, "Earlier I used to think a lot of hypnosis, but today I have become very careful in my use of it."

Border-area

This devout doctor then explained to me, "Only under two preconditions would I let myself be hypnotized." Curious, I asked him about the two preconditions. His answer was, "First of all the one who is going to hypnotize me must be a Christian, but most of all he must be a 're-born' Christian." His reason for this double assurance was, "Hypnosis is a border-area. I would not like to thoughtlessly place myself under the influence of another power."

Moreover, he pointed out, "Hypnosis can lead to addiction; you will never be able to forget that the hypnotist has had you in his power for a certain period of time. You have developed a dependent relationship." The doctor openly admitted that every hypnotic treatment then requires further treatment in order to counteract this dependency. Finally he added, "Under certain circumstances this further treatment can stretch out over two years, but there is no assurance that this dependency can be effectually eliminated." Dear reader, when, according to this doctor's statement, hypnosis

is at the least a border-area, then it is a dangerous border-area. Who can know exactly where the border runs? Christians are no fence-sitters. No warning against this can be stated too strongly.

Dr. T. E. Wade, a physician, has studied the process and dangers of hypnotism and similar phenomena for many years. In his book 'Spirit Possession' (7) he states the important facts:

The Danger of Hypnosis

"Hypnotists often assure their prospective subjects that hypnotized persons cannot be caused to do anything contrary to their basic standards of right and wrong. Unfortunately, however, most of us seem to have inherited tendencies toward evil. Some authorities on the subject assert that one who has a repressed inner urge to commit some criminal act might readily do so when the restraining effect of better judgment has been removed and the act is suggested by the hypnotist. (pp.8.9.10)

Mind Control Does Not End

Furthermore, mind control does not necessarily end when the hypnosis session is over. By "therapeutic suggestion" psychoanalysts believe hypnosis enables them to implant impressions in the subconscious minds of their patients. For instance, "Even though you relinquish all active control over a subject when you awaken him, the posthypnotic suggestions you have made still control him and his thoughts and actions. They have become… an integral part of his mental process…

Through Hypnosis a New Thought Pattern

The continued control of the hypnotist over the subject's subjective mind leads to a gradually increasing influence over the subject's objective process as well, and thus to a remodeling of his entire thought pattern. This is the basis of therapeutic hypnosis based upon implantation of suggestions in the subject's subjective mind with continuing (posthypnotic) ef-

fects." (11)

In their Book, "The Seduction of Christianity," Hunt and McMahon recognize hypnotism as part of a worldwide influence.

A Merging of Science and Religion

"It requires little insight to realize that in order to establish Antichrist's official world religion in the space age, where science is worshiped, it will be necessary to merge religion with science."

"Many secular leaders have been predicting this for some time. Catholic priest and paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin and psychologist C. G. Jung both foresaw it. This process is already well-established, not only in the secular world, but also within the church."

Hypnosis Is a Part of Occultism

"One place where science and religion have met is in the growing practice of hypnosis. Though an integral part of occultism for thousands of years, hypnosis has now been accepted as "scientific" and is even being used by hundreds of Christian psychologists."

"The following statement by two of the leading authorities in the field of hypnosis, William Kroger and William Fezler, should give everyone who uses any form of hypnosis, especially Christians, serious concern." (12)

Eastern Healing Methodologies

The reader should not be confused by the supposed differences between hypnosis, Zen, Yoga and other Eastern healing methodologies. Although the ritual for each differs, they are fundamentally the same.' (13)

Doubtful Memories

"More and more Christian psychologists use hypnosis to 'regress' clients back into their childhood or even into the womb in order to deal

with early traumas. Factual data often come forth, even though the brain of the prenatal, natal, and early postnatal infant is not sufficiently developed to carry memories. The source of these 'memories' is therefore suspect at best. This is equally true of the memories often aroused in what Christians call 'inner healing' or 'healing of the memories,' which can be a form of hypnosis…"

"However, some of Bernard Diamond's comments about suggestion and memory should be noted now. A professor of law and clinical psychiatry, he is one of the world's leading authorities on hypnosis. Among the questions Dr. Diamond answered in the California Law Review were the following: (14)

Implanting of Suggestions

'Can a hypnotist, through the exercise of skill and attention, avoid implanting suggestions in the mind of the hypnotized subject? No, such suggestions cannot be avoided.

During or after hypnosis, can the hypnotist or the subject himself sort out fact from fantasy in the recall? Again the answer is no. No one, regardless of experience, can verify the accuracy of the hypnotically enhanced memory.'" (15)

Hypnosis the Door to the Subconscious

"Nevertheless, in the name of science, hypnosis is being called upon increasingly to support psychology's religious beliefs in such things as 'infinite potential residing in the subconscious,' the conscious direction of humanity's evolution to a so-called 'higher' consciousness involving godlike mind powers, and lately even reincarnation."

Memories of a past Life?

"Psychiatrists are now 'regressing' patients under hypnosis back through the womb to experience alleged prior lives. Clearly such 'memories' do not come from the brain, but from the same seduc-

tive source as prenatal 'memories.' Even factual 'memories' of the future surface under hypnosis! In one study involving 6000 hypnotically regressed subjects, about 20 percent experienced 'earlier existences on other planets.'" (16)

Evolution Is at the Heart of Occult

"Evolution plays an extremely important part in the merger of so-called science with religion. Evolution is a theory that did not originate with science, but has been at the heart of the occult for thousands of years. Hinduism with its evil caste system is based upon a cosmic evolution to godhood that works through karma and reincarnation. The growing acceptance of these ideas in Western society is illustrated by the following ad in the Sunday Calendar Section of the Los Angeles Times:

The Last Evolutionary Step?

SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI
the most important spiritual figure in
the world today. She will awaken in
you the force that will change your life
and change the world.
This awakening explains and integrates all the
great religions. It grants inner peace,
health and joy.
It is the last evolutionary step, promised by
traditions that stretch back to the beginnings
of human spiritual awareness.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OF HOLLYWOOD.." (17)

Dr. Wade gives the warning:

Hypnosis Is Not Entertainment

"Hypnosis is not entertainment! I urge you to avoid all involvement with its practice. Don't even watch it." (18)

Yoga

Yoga

Yoga is steadily finding more and more followers. The Western World is being flooded by a 'Yoga Wave.' There are certain important questions concerning Yoga which must be raised. These questions require clear and plain answers.

No Harmless Gymnastic

"Is Yoga a certain form of physical education? Is it a therapy? Is it a philosophy? Is it a science? Is it anything metaphysical? Is it a religion? Is it a special kind of mental hygiene? One method of exploring one's self? As stunning as it may seem, it is all of that simultaneously and indeed even more. We are taught that Yoga leads to submerging ourselves into the highest being and at the same time discovering the secrets of creation. How far from the conception we have come that whoever is practicing Yoga is merely practicing gymnastics." (19)

Daniel Dossmann, a former Yoga teacher, provides us with the following important information:

"Since the time of Buddha a great variety of Yoga techniques have been developed, but let us only concern ourselves with the basic principle determining them all.

A Slumbering Power

This principle is psycho-somatic; the mind and the body must be united with each other for a mutual task. At first the Yogi must assume that there is a power slumbering in him which he must awaken. Supported by a corresponding mental concentration,

the body positions have an effect on the inner functional structure of the body and the mind. According to Hindu tradition, there is a power slumbering at the base of the spinal cord which is called Kundalini...

Inner Enlightenment

The practice of Yoga has as its goal the awakening of this power and leading it up along the spinal cord. According to the above mentioned tradition, there are always seven centers of power along this way which are called Chakras... Whenever one of these centers is awakened, it endows the Yogi with a new power which then allows him to go even one step further until he reaches a kind of inner enlightenment...

An Uncontrollable Process

From the very beginning, through the positions which he practices, the Yogi is sucked into a process which slips out of his own control. Accompanied by special breathing exercises and a concentration of the thoughts on certain parts of the body, the positions lead him into something which transcends him and over which he is no longer master.,.

During all this time the Kundalini power is irresistibly developing itself, making the Yogi a slave to his supposed well-being which it is procuring for him. It is regrettable to find out how many people are practicing Yoga without realizing what is concealed behind it.

Self-redemption For Superman

Yoga is neither a sport, nor something which brings about an inner peace of mind, nor a way which leads to God. It is an exercise in self-redemption, glorifying the natural state of man and seeking to make a superman out of him. It is in veritable contradiction to the Way of God. God

never created man to be passive, bound to something having an effect on him without his knowledge.

Fallen Spirits Endow Powers

According to traditional Hindu teaching, the centers of power or Chakras are connected with certain spirits which exist in a realm outside of the body, called the astral region. This is exactly the realm in which the fallen spirits and their leader, Satan, are living. These are the ones who are endowing the Yogi with the power to transcend and they are the ones directing the rise of the Kundalini and the awakening of the Chakras. When one centre is enlightened, these spirits are appealed to and are then enabled to continue to act; they endow the Yogi such powers as, for example, parapsychology, telepathy (the capability of influencing other people through thought), fortune-telling, the gift of making contact with the spirits of the dead, causing certain apparitions to become visible, etc.

In reading these lines, you will perhaps exclaim, 'But that goes way beyond the Yoga that I know! Namely, to relax, to empty oneself, etc.'

Emptying the Mind Is Opening The Door

But that is exactly the point: emptying your mind is opening the door to the fallen spirits. They have no bodies and their desire is to take possession of someone... In his search for solutions modern man plunges headlong into everything that the Orient has to offer; he is attracted by the 'mysterious.'

The Devil Demands Worship

The Devil wants to be worshipped and makes use of a myriad of tricks and counterfeits in order to attract those who have become weary of materialism and inner anxieties. Just as he did with Jesus, Satan shows man all of the kingdoms of the world and their splendor and tells him, 'All this I will

give you, if you will bow down and worship me.' But Jesus answered,

Away With You, Satan

'Away from me, Satan! For it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."' (Matthew 4:9-10) (20).

The Diabolical Rule of the Spirit

"As already mentioned, the exercise of emptying the mind is exceptionally dangerous. Namely, as soon as the Yogi has achieved this point, his free-will has been completely eliminated. In this way spirits force their way into the person's mind and subject him to their diabolical control. In this case the Yogi is sucked into a progressive psychical derailment which can then drive him crazy.

The Greeting of the Sun

Man As A Slave o f the Powers of Nature

Another point concerning Yoga, the battle-arts and Zen is the 'Greeting of the Sun' and the 'Greeting of Dojo.' A course in Yoga usually begins with the Greeting of the Sun, consisting of a series of positions, accompanied by a certain form of breathing and by mental concentration on various parts of the body. In order to accomplish this you generally have to face the rising sun. The Yogi is trying to sensitize himself to the functions of the sun and the stars, as well as to everything concerning the realm of magnetism. He has to even align the position of his bed according to certain cosmic currents, and there are also certain sleeping positions... All of this induces him to become a slave of the powers of nature, whilst it is man who is supposed to rule over creation, as everyone well knows." (21)

God's warning is as follows:

God's Warning

"Therefore watch yourselves very carefully... And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them

and worshipping things the Lord your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven." (Deuteronomy 4:15, 19)

Powers for Occult Practices

What dimensions are opened through the practice of Yoga? In his book "Yoga—Yes or No?" Maurice Ray quotes,

"According to the words of the Master — 'each and every one who halfway seriously practices Hatha-Yoga will gain new capabilities, among which are: telepathy, prescience, second-sight and all such powers of a supernatural state indispensable for occult practices...'" (22)

The Experiences of a Brahman Priest

Rabindranath R. Maharaj comes from a long line of Brahman priests. Already as a child he had been trained in Yoga and meditation. Daily he was seeking connection with his many gods through mystical prayers, rites and worship; in this way he entered into transcendental states, came into contact with 'spirits,' viewed the most fascinating colors, heard mysterious music and was translated into another world. His people even worshipped him as a god.

Increasing disappointments and inner struggles lead to a conflict with his mystical knowledge until the finally found a new meaning in his life. In his book "The Death of a Guru" he describes his experiences:

Frightening Psychic Experiences

"Nothing was more important than our daily transcendental meditation, the heart of Yoga, which Krishna advocated as the surest way to eternal bliss. But it could also be dangerous. Frightening psychic experiences awaited the unwary meditator, similar to a bad trip on drugs. Demons described in the Vedas had been known to take possession of some Yogis. Kundalini power, said to be coiled like a serpent at the base of the spine, could produce ecstatic experiences when released in deep

meditation—or, if not properly controlled, it could do great mental and even bodily harm. The line between ecstasy and horror was very fine...

Encounters with Horrible Demonic Creatures

During the daily meditation I began to have visions of psychedelic colors, to hear unearthly music, and to visit exotic planets where the gods conversed with me, encouraging me to attain even higher states of consciousness. Sometimes in my trance I encountered the same horrible demonic creatures that are depicted by the images in Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto, and other religious temples. It was a frightful experience… At times I experienced a sense of mystical unity with the universe. I was the universe, Lord of all, omnipotent, omnipresent..." (23)

Occult Forces Manifested

"Although the peace I experienced in meditation so easily deserted me, the occult forces that my practice of Yoga cultivated and aroused lingered on and began to manifest themselves in public. Knowing that without these displays of the supernatural my following could never be very great, I welcomed this growing spiritual power..."

None Of The Gods Were Kind, Gentle And Loving

"Often while I was in deep meditation, the gods became visible and talked with me. At times I seemed to be transported by astral projection to distant planets or to worlds in other dimensions. It would be years before I would learn that such experiences were being duplicated in laboratories under the watchful eyes of parapsychologists through the use of hypnosis and LSD. In my Yogic trances most often I would be alone with Shiva the Destroyer, sitting fearfully at his feet, the huge cobra coiled about his neck staring at me, hissing and darting out its tongue threateningly. Sometimes I wondered why none of the gods I ever en-

countered seemed kind and gentle and loving. But at least they seemed real—I had no doubt of that..." (24)

Longing For the True God

"I began to think of the Creator as the true God, in contrast to the many Hindu gods, some of whom I was convinced I had met in my trances. I felt increasingly the stark difference between the terror they struck in my heart and the instinct I had that the true God was loving and kind. There was not one of the Hindu gods whom I now felt I could really trust—no one that loved me. 1 felt a growing hunger to know the Creator, but I knew no mantras to recite to him, and I had the uneasy feeling that my pursuit of Self-realization was not bringing me nearer to him but taking me farther from him. It troubled me also that, in spite of my attempts to realize that I was Brahman, the feeling of peace I achieved in meditation never lasted very long in the every-day world..." (25)

Guru Maharaj then confessed,

Fear of Spirit Visitations

"I now feared the astral travel and the spirit visitations I had once exulted in, but I knew no other way to search for God than through Yoga. My religion, my training, my experience in meditation—all had taught me that only by looking within myself could I find truth, so I tried it again. The search within, however, proved futile. Instead of finding God, I only stirred up a nest of evil that made me even more aware of my own heart's corruption. My misery only became greater, my sense of guilt and shame a burden impossible to bear." (26)

Finally the Guru recognized,

Only Jesus Can Help

"If ever you're in real danger and nothing else seems to work, there's another god you can pray

to. His name is Jesus." (27)

After Maharaj had become a Christian, he discovered,

The Deceptive Spirit Beings Are Devilish Demons

"We understood at last that the cause of all these things had not been Nana's spirit, as we had supposed, but spirit beings the Bible called 'demons'—angels who had rebelled with Satan against God and were trying to confuse and to deceive men into joining their rebellion. They were the real power behind the idols and every philosophy that denied the true God his rightful place as Creator and Lord. I now understood that these were the beings I had met in Yogic trance and deep meditation, masquerading as Shiva or some other Hindu deity." (28)

The Key to the Realm of the Occult

Yoga exercises are not as harmless as they may appear. Whoever practices Yoga has the key to the realm of the occult in his hand. We have already become sufficiently acquainted with the one who is masquerading behind the realm of the occult.

Drugs

Drugs

Are there any parallels between Yoga meditation and the taking of drugs?

As a Christian Maharaj he was also trying to help drug addicts.

A Startling Discovery

He "made a startling discovery: some of them were having the same experiences on drugs that I had in Yoga and meditation! I listened in amazement as they described the 'beautiful and peaceful world' they often entered through LSD, a world whose psychedelic sights and sounds were all too familiar to me.

The Danger of Transcendental Meditation

'I didn't need drugs to have visions of other worlds and weird beings, and to see psychedelic colors and to sense a oneness with the universe and the feeling that I was God,' I would tell them. 'I got it all by transcendental meditation. But it was a lie, a trick of evil spirits who took over my mind when I relaxed control of it. You're being deceived. The only way to find the peace and fulfillment you seek is through Christ...'

Drugs Are Deceptive

I began to ponder and pray earnestly about the fact that so many addicts—though not all, by any means—had the same experiences as Yogis: what one got on drugs the other got through Eastern meditation. I learned that drugs caused altered states of consciousness similar to those experienced in meditation, making it possible for demons to manipulate the neurons in the brain and create all manner of seemingly real experiences that were actually deceptive tricks played on the mind. The same evil spirits that had led me ever deeper into meditation to gain control of me were obviously behind the drug movement, and for the same diabolical purpose. I began to see that the same satanic strategy lay behind drugs, meditation, free sex, and the rebelliousness of youth, expressed in the hippie movement...

Diabolical Purpose

Stoned On Music

This movement was embodied in certain music like that of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. I remember a Rolling Stones concert where about 250,000 people gathered in Hyde Park after the death of Bryan Jones from a drug overdose. They were as stoned on the music, as they were on hash and LSD.

An Invasion of Eastern Religion

I discovered that young people by the thousands were not just dropping out to turn on with drugs, but they were taking up transcendental meditation and various other forms of Yoga. Their whole way of thinking became clouded by Eastern mysticism. Nearly all began to accept reincarnation, which ended any belief in Christ's resurrection; the two are absolute opposites. Slowly and with a growing sense of alarm I became convinced that Satan was masterminding an invasion of the West with Eastern mysticism." (29)

Why Do Occultism, Spiritualism and Satanism Have Such a Strong Appeal?

Here the question may justifiably arise as to why the realm of superstition and occultism is able to exert such a powerful attraction on people? Why does one go

to have the cards read? Why does one occupy oneself with interpreting dreams? Why does one seek help from astrology? Why does one consult the pendulum and the divining-rod?

Longing For Happiness

Each and every person has an inner longing for happiness and is longing for reliable advice in life. Don't you want to be happy? I, too, am longing for happiness and security. However, I want to be granted security in life by Him who can really give it to me, namely Jesus Christ. Happiness from any other hand actually means unhappiness.

Past-time And the Desire to Obtain Knowledge

In their search for happiness many people venture into the realm of the occult out of curiosity, to pass the time or out of an honest desire to obtain knowledge, without being conscious of the dangers lurking therein and the grave consequences resulting from it.

The Fear of Misfortune

The fear of misfortune and sickness is one further reason why the realm of the occult is enjoying such great popularity today. With apparently successful means of protection and defense, many are seeking the help longed for. 'Health at any cost' is the motto of life today.

The Compulsion Imitate

The compulsion to imitate also plays a great role. There are seemingly completely harmless sayings which are unsuspectingly spoken when, for example, children have hurt themselves. One such saying runs, "Heal, heal, blessing...," although the help here is not being sought from God.

Curiosity

Curiosity about the future is moving many to venture into dangerous territory. Card-readers, fortune-tellers or astrological consultants make it very easy for us to obtain information about the future. However, we will never become really happy with this personal knowledge of the future in the end anyway.

Mastering Life

The desire to master our fate through our own powers also plays a great role today. God's adversary takes this wish into account and offers us something from his sample collection with the subtle hooks of curiosity. For his ostensible help he then demands a high price from us.

There Is No Such Thing as 'No Man's Land'

It is often asserted that we are dealing with 'no-man's land.' From such a point of view it is justifiable that we take advantage of any information available to us. The procurement and support of this information then enables us to make the right decisions and to obtain the help necessary in life.

Either Satan's Realm of Power or God's Realm of Power

Very clearly the Bible points out to us that it is not at all possible for us to live in a 'no-man's land.' Either we are moving within the realm of Satan's power or we have made the decision to live within the realm of God's power. A clear statement from the Word of God concerning this is,

> *"I am sending you to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18)*

If there really were a neutral area, it would be recommendable to concern ourselves with such things as clairvoyance, oscillating, divining-rods, meditation. yoga, drugs and all of the occult practices. In this way we would obtain the possibility of experiencing and expanding our consciousness and would thus be able to obtain practical help for the difficult situations in life.

There Is No Neutral Area

God, however, makes it unmistakably clear to us that there is no neutral area. Nowhere in the Bible is it mentioned that there is a 'no-man's land' between the realm of the 'dark powers' and the 'Dominion of His beloved Son.'

> *"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves, in which we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)*

God's Adversary Demands His Price

Whoever consciously or unconsciously ventures into the 'Dominion of the Dark Powers' in order to here seek help and assistance will inevitably be billed for it and will, in any case, have to pay a high price for the services rendered. The resulting consequences are always negative. God's adversary is

ruthless and unrelenting where his price demands are concerned.

The Devil's due

The 'Devil's Due' can burden you in various areas. It becomes evident in changes of character, mental distress, per-version of drives, crises in faith, dependence, organic damage, possession, etc. The following chapter, **"The Spell of Superstition" p.107 ff,** will describe the effects and consequences of detestable sins. It is high treason and an offence to God when we accept His adversary's offers of help:

Doing Wrong Is Sin

> *"'My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.'" (Jeremiah 2:13)*
>
> *"All wrong-doing is sin.," (1 John 5:17)*

A Decisive Change of Sides

We are left with two possibilities: Either we are living within the realm of Satan's power or we are living within the realm of God's power. Each of us has the opportunity of drawing up a 'Balance Sheet' for ourselves. We need not investigate very long before recognizing that the decision for God is an absolute gain. We are allowed to make a free-will decision and each of us has the opportunity of carrying out a radical change of sides.

Jesus Is the Victor

The reality is that Satan is a cruel tyrant and a mighty ruler. However, the really 'good news' is: Jesus Christ is even mightier than Satan. He has already conquered His adversary. The decisive moment was Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. Jesus Christ lives. He can help you and deliver you. The cross is Jesus' sign of victory.

Dear reader, on the cross the love of God was made visible to us and to you, too. The vicarious

death of Jesus is the visible guarantee of God's love for you.

Freedom Free of Charge

Jesus Christ alone is in a position to deliver us from Satan's despotism and to annul his 'price of burden' in our lives. What price the Devil demands in our lives is of no importance. Whether we are plagued by depression or phobias, suffer under crises of faith or whatever other burden, we can become free through Jesus Christ. This freedom costs us nothing. It is a gift of love from God. For each and every person there is an opportunity to begin a life free of burden, a happy life. Many have already chosen this path to freedom.

Accept the Offer

Dear reader, I now encourages you to accept God's offer of help and allow Jesus Christ to grant you freedom. Can you really afford refusing such an offer? Choose the side of Jesus now, today, and then you will be on the side of the Victor. You can come to Him without any obligation. I pray to God that He may grant you the inner readiness and the power to take this step. God's encouraging promises are:

God's Help

"This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not he afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you...'" (2 Chronicles 20:15, 17)

"Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work." (1 John 3:7-8)

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive our-

selves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9)

A Far-reaching Decision

Dear reader, this is a decision with far reaching consequences. Jesus Christ can take away all of your guilt and burden. Are you devout or are you superstitious? Are you following the Devil or have you decided for Jesus? Both decisions have their consequences! A modern parable should be able to make this clear:

The Superstition Express

We are all standing on the same platform in a railway station. On the one side the **'Superstition Express'** is inviting us to take an exciting excursion. This train has a spectacular decor, gaudy colors, and neon lettering. Rock music is blaring from the half-open windows. The passenger-cars have many different compartments. Plenty of entertainment has been provided for. Full of expectations, we board this train.

A Service for Every Body

Already purchased before the trip begins, 'Heavenly Insurance' is supposed to guarantee you a safe trip. Whoever finds the compartment 'Horoscope and Zodiac' too boring can have his warts conjured away in the 'Beauty Salon,' observe a magnetism treating migraine head-ache or visit the compartment 'Card-reading and Fortune-telling.' Full of excitement, we may obtain a personal consultation about our future.

Exciting Entertainment

Exciting reading has also been provided for. The "Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses," books about dreams and mysterious books of magic are on display. It is never boring with table-turning and glass-tilting. Dowsers are discussing their experiences. If you have not yet had any experience with oscillating, you can now learn this, too. If you are interested courses are being offered in "Quenching Burns" and "Faith-healing." It is quite possible that, through the use of

such assistance, you may later become famous as a "benefactor of man-kind." Amulets are being offered as souvenirs of the trip. If you are suffering from stress from the excitement of the trip, you can experience the longed-for relaxation in Yoga exercises. If you are interested in the extraordinary, you will be offered an opportunity to be transported into another world through hypnosis. You can then experience "two trips in one." Behind closed doors 'Black Masses' are being celebrated and spiritualism séances are being held. It is asserted that you will be able to make contact with the spirits of the dead. There is even an opportunity to join the "Church of Satan."

The Big Surprise

Weary and exhausted, close to a nervous breakdown, you reach your goal. The last surprise is a personal encounter with the "Father of Lies," the Devil, at your destination "Vale of Tears." No one has suspected that the "Master Deceiver" could be so mean and malicious. Everyone is seized with horror.

Trip to Perdition

Satan smiles gloatingly. It is awful. Panic then breaks out. One after the other perishes. Death ends the excursion which was actually nothing more than a trip to perdition.

The 'Faith Local'

On the other side of the platform the **"Faith Local"** is waiting. It appears to be plain and insignificant but has an impression of dependability and security. Friendly people are waving from the windows. Strong angels are helping in boarding and caring for the passengers' well-being in a friendly and conscientious manner. During the brisk trip the passengers are enjoying well-balanced and life-long contentment.

The Travel Guide

The Bible, the Word of God, is their constant travel guide. The entire route is described very clearly.

The individual stations in life are easy to recognize.

For each and every situation in life there is comfort and words of encouragement. Historical background information and unique prophetic statements provide a completely new understanding of the present-day situation in the world. The daily study of the 'Holy Scriptures' has become an every-day joy. "God's Love-letter" has become a constant source of strength.

The Group-leader

The tourist guide is the Holy Spirit, who is available anywhere and everywhere at any time. Generously He dispenses to each of the travelers confidence and contentment, strength in faith and the power to overcome. One special gift from Him is the strength to be obedient; you simply have no other desire than to do what is pleasing to God.

Comfort and Divine Support

If you have become besmirched with sin on the way, you will be washed completely clean again through Jesus' blood. No one finds any pleasure in disputing or quarrelling; everyone is contented and thankful. The trip through life is indescribably joyful. In times of sorrow you obtain comfort and divine support.

Destination At Last

At your destination 'Mount Joy' Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is waiting. What a pleasure it is to be able to meet Him personally. The Love of God, who has been our invisible travel companion during the entire trip, now becomes visible to all in the person of Jesus. The most beautiful part is just now beginning. The Faithful are allowed to live in the presence of God throughout all eternity. There is no longer any suffering, any sorrow, any care, any misfortune, any sickness, any infirmities, nor any death. The epitome of a perfect life has now become reality. This trip has been worthwhile. We have reached our splendid destination.

God's Pledge

''However, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.'" (1 Corinthians

2:9)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

You Must Decide

Dear reader, we have all "boarded." Are you sitting in the right train? Have you chosen the 'Faith Local' and thus God or have you chosen the 'Superstition Express' and thus God's adversary? If you have boarded the wrong train, do you still not want to change trains today? God will grant you the power to do it.

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24. Ibid., pp. 75-76.
25. Ibid, pp. 98-99.
26. Ibid., p. 111.
27. Ibid., p. 96.
28. Ibid., p. 136.
29. Ibid., pp. 157-159.

This is a good opportunity to print here the address of the Bible-course that is offered in your country.

Many who have read this book will have the desire to know more about the Bible and its teachings

The Spell of Superstition and its Burden

A Burn is quenched

In the glowing heat a roofer was working on an aluminum roof. He was wearing only a pair of pants. The reflection from the aluminum was intense. After some time he began to notice he was developing a sun-burn. But it was already too late. Sun-burn blisters had already formed. The pain had become almost unbearable. He then remembered that his uncle was able to 'quench burns.'

His uncle proved to be of great help to him in his distress. He prayed a Paternoster and then blew on the torso covered with the sun-burned blisters while softly murmuring an unintelligible incantation. Almost

The Sorcerer

instantaneously an alleviation of the intense pain set in. Within a short time the terrible sun-burn had healed completely. The 'burn had been quenched..' Soon everything had been forgotten.

The years passed. One day his uncle was summoned to stand trial before the local court of law, accused of 'quackery' and 'witchcraft.' The witch-trial in the county seat stirred up feelings everywhere. Astonishing methods of treatment were brought to light. One had the feeling of being transported back into the 'Dark Middle Ages.' The accused 'sorcerer' considered himself innocent. His only wish was to help other people in their diverse distress. He wasn't interested in competing with anyone.

Age-old Secret Remedies

As a child the roofer whose burns were quenched had already experienced his uncle's help. His uncle had treated a case of rickets (the English disease) by using 'sympathy' or 'faith-healing.' Without the treatment of a doctor and without any medicine he had been cured.

No wonder that his uncle had repeatedly helped out with his 'age-old secret remedies.'

Praying Becomes Impossible

One day the Holy Scriptures fell into the roofer's hands. He had a great longing to get to know the Word of God better. He then participated in a regular course of Bible studies. But one thing was peculiar. In those things concerning faith he was just not able to make any progress. He gladly wanted to pray but was not able to. The roofer was at a loss. "Every time I kneel down to pray," he reported, "I only speak one or two sentences and - then I cannot remember anything more. I no longer know what I wanted to pray about. I start over from the beginning once more, but again my memory fails me. After several unsuccessful attempts at praying, I am so tired that I am only able to fall asleep. I simply cannot pray."

Loss of Memory

He also had difficulty in reading the Bible. The roofer greatly enjoyed reading the Holy Scriptures. He read often and a lot. But here as well his loss of memory continually cropped up. He complained, "The Bible is my favorite book. I cannot read enough in it. But it is peculiar that every time I close the Bible, I can no longer remember what 1 have read. I'll be darned if I can remember anything at all. When I close the cover of the book, my ability to remember ceases." One further admission, lying on a different level, revealed another trouble. He confessed, "I am abnormally jealous and I suffer a lot from it."

The Miracle Doctor

He had absolutely no suspicions about his uncle, the 'miracle doctor.' He could simply not understand why such a 'benefactor of mankind' could be tried before a court. The roofer's opinion was, "He has miraculously helped me and so many others."

Could there possibly be any connection between the roofer's strange circumstances and the aid of the miracle doctor who goes around curing people with the help of white or black magic and other occult practices? Is it at all possible that we are here encountering the reality of the spell of superstition?

Can the Devil Grant Us Good Health?

First of all, we must ask ourselves an extremely important question. Is good health a gift from God exclusively or can God's adversary and enemy also heal the sick?

One fact is certain: God can still heal and grant good health today as well. However, there is one thing we should not forget: For every genuine gift from God there is also, unfortunately, a counterfeit. Jesus has warned us,

A Warning of Deception

> *"For the false Christ's and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time." (Matthew 24:24-25)*

Furthermore Apostle Paul has also drawn this to our attention,

> *"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)*

Miracles Are No Guarantee

If God's adversary is able to perform 'miracles,' then signs, miracles and healing alone are still no guarantee that the power of God is working here.

The Criterion of Genuine Healing

Ten Criterions for Divine Healing

What are the conditions for recognizing genuine healing of the sick? The following list of questions from George Vandeman, a well-known television evangelist, should be able to provide us some help:

Healing from God

1. Is the faith-healer requesting the healing from God or is he directing his prayer to some other power?

According to God's Will

2. Is the faith-healer praying according to Jesus' example?

> *"Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)*

Gives the faith-healer God a command to heal the sick person?

Jesus is the Healer

3. Is the faith-healer placing Jesus, the 'Divine Healer,' in the forefront, or is he only using God as a sort of 'advertising agent' in order to promote his own reputation? Is he concerned with his own honor first of all or is he placing the honor of God in the

forefront?

In Accordance with the Bible

4. Is the faith-healer proclaiming a message or advocating an opinion which is in accordance with the entire message of the Bible? If it is not in accordance with the Bible, then the criterion in the Word of God is to be applied, the Apostle Paul expressed it as follows:

"...which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from Heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!" (Galatians 1:7-9)

Accordance in Behavior and Profession

5. Is the faith-healer's behavior and profession of faith in accordance with the statements of the Bible? If this is not the case, then Jesus' criterion are to be applied:

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven. Many

will say to me on that day. 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:15-23)

The Cause: A Disregard of the Laws of Nature

6. Does the faith-healer point out in any way that the sickness may possibly have been caused by a disregard of the laws of nature. Does he give the one seeking help any instructions as to how he may be able to observe the laws of nature in the future?

It is well-known today, for example, that smoking tobacco can cause cancer. If lung-cancer has been caused by years of smoking, God can, of course, be requested to heal it. Nevertheless, it is not God's intention to only grant good health so that after being successfully healed the one concerned can enjoy his passion for smoking and continue his unhealthy and dangerous way of life. His healing must be accompanied by a change in his life-style.

The Healing Power of Sun and Water

7. Does the faith-healer give any instruction about the healing powers of sunlight and water? The use of water inwardly and outwardly is a source of health for the body.

Air, Exercise and Relaxation

8. Does the faith-healer also inform him how important clean, fresh air, sufficient bodily exercise, restful relaxation and sufficient sleep are for his health?

A Well-balanced Highly Nutritious Diet

9. Does the faith-healer then give further guidance in a healthy, well-balanced and highly nutritious diet of fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts, such as his Creator had originally provided for mankind?

Our Bodies the Temple of God

10. Does the faith-healer point out to him that his body is the temple of God? (1)

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have re-

ceived from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"'Everything is permissible for me'—but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible for me'—but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Corinthians 6: 12)

A Disregard of the Laws of Nature Has Its Consequences

God's will for us is life and health. God is not the author of sickness, suffering, pain and death. However, God is the author of the laws of nature, the transgression of which may cause us problems, difficulties and pain. Our bodies react to the law of cause and effect only too promptly.

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7)

God Let Us Have Our Own Way: We Must Bear the Consequences

We experience, for example, the effects of alcohol at every step. Alcohol in street traffic is claiming new sacrifices daily. Hospitals, sanatoriums for alcoholics, and prisons are steadily providing us proof of the effects of alcohol. In spite of this God does not take the bottle of alcohol out of anyone's hand. Scientific investigations have established that smoking can cause cancer. God has made no provision in our bodies for the removal of smoke. Obesity conceals many health risks but God does not prevent us from eating more than we require. One day, however, the consequences of our unhealthy way of life will become noticeable and we will have to take our complaints and sickness to the doctor.

God Does Not Coerce

God has given us a free will of our own. God never coerces us. God draws our attention, gives us information and states the facts, because He only wants what is best for us in every respect. The decision is then

ours. We must make the decision. We, ourselves, must then bear the consequences of our decision. The effects can turn out to be positive or negative.

God's Help with Habits

Wrong decisions can be corrected later. We can change our behavior and our habits of life. Often, however, we are too weak to give up bad habits on our own accord. In this case God is offering us His help. Jesus has named the conditions and given us His personal promise:

> *"To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said,* ***'If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.'***
>
> *They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can You say that we shall be set free?'*
>
> *Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever.* ***So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*** *(John 8:31-36)*

God's Condition: Obedience

God wants to and can help us. His precondition is, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." God asks for obedience. God's promise to every person who is obedient to Him is, ***"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*** There is an Almighty God who loves us and wants to give us freedom.

God Grants Deliverance

Dear reader, you may trustingly turn to Jesus in your distress. No matter whether it is a bad habit or a harmful addiction, Jesus can deliver you from it. He alone is in a position to do this. Jesus can grant you the victory of freedom which you are longing for and which you need in your life. It is not necessary to go

into detail here, as this important subject will be folly explained in the next chapter **"Deliverance through Jesus", pp.157, ff.**

Guidance to Living Is Important

God's help in the restoration of our health includes more than only physical healing. Guidance in a healthy way of life is just as important. When Jesus was on Earth, He practiced physical healing and gave instructions in living at the same time as well.

What is God's offer? How is God willing to help us with sickness and physical ailments? We can read about this in the Bible:

God's Offer of Healing

> *"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the Church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:13-16)*

Here God is promising the sick His help and health. This statement from the Bible contains a precious pledge of God which is still valid today. The Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, has the power to grant us health, if it is His Will.

Here is another encouraging invitation from God:

God's Promise of Healing

> *"Come; let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but He will heal us; He has injured us but He will bind up our wounds." (Hosea 6:1)*

A thorough searching of the heart is the prerequisite of a request for health. The sick person must make a comprehensive confession of his sins aloud and, as far as it is possible, he must put in order all of those sins that he has committed against his fellow-men and reconcile himself with them. If we show no readiness to be reconciled with our fellow-men and with God and refuse to give up conscious sins and bad habits, how can we then expect healing from God? Being reconciled with God and with our fellow-men must be our earnest desire.

The sick person himself, as well as those participating in the request for the sick person, must, with God's help, remove all those obstacles standing in the way of a prayer being heard.

Sin Separates

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)

No One Can Issue Orders to God

God can answer our request and grant us healing at any moment, but we, ourselves, do not recognize what God's will is for us. We do not know whether it is His intention to grant us healing. For this reason we may not issue God any commands. Whenever it has to do with our health, it is always fitting to say to God, **"Lord, not my will, but your will be done!"**

How Does God Answer A Request for Health?

There are several possible ways in which God can answer our requests for health. In any case, we may be certain that God has provided the best help for our situation in every respect.

An Answer to Prayer: ***Immediate Healing***

The God of Creation has the power, if it is His will, to remove each and every sickness immediately. He can grant that health longed for and prayed for. In His omnipotence He is able to perform an immediate miracle of healing at any time.

Faith-Healing Today

A Pastor Relates

A friend of mine, a devout pastor once related to me his experience. God has granted him complete healing. I would now like to report his experience. It is an answer to prayer which is to the glory of God in every respect.

The Final Stage of Stomach Cancer

At the age of 59 he was informed by the professors, after a thorough examination, that he had cancer of the stomach in its final stage. The doctors gave him only a few months to live. The pastor then took a thorough inventory of his life before God. Everything the Holy Spirit reminded him of he put in order. He then turned to God in an earnest and devout prayer:

Thanks for God's Help

"GREAT AND ALMIGHTY GOD, I have put my life in order. I am now coming to you with an earnest request. First of all with all my heart, I want to thank you for your guidance and assistance in my life. I have served you all of my life and have preached the message of Jesus Christ to the people. It is to your honor that so many people have taken their stand for Jesus. I rejoice as well and thank you for all of the victories and the daily assistance which you have given to me and my family.

ALMIGHTY GOD, You know that I am now suffering great physical and mental anguish. The doctors have given me only a short time to live. I have stomach cancer in its final stage. I do not know

why you have allowed it. I thank you that I can still pray and trustingly turn to you in this situation, too. I have put everything in my life in order and been reconciled with all those where it was necessary. I thank you that I can live in peace with you and my fellow-men.

Ready to Die

If you are considering laying me to rest, I am now ready to die. I know that I will be resting unconscious in my grave. On the great day of your return, Lord Jesus, You will awaken me from my sleep of death. I can then arise from the dead and will receive visible, eternal life from your hand. Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Lord of life and death and, comforted, I may entrust my life into your hands. You will not forget me. For this assurance I thank you.

Ready to Serve

LORD JESUS, nevertheless I am convinced that You can still heal the sick, even today. If you want to heal me, I promise you that I will so serve you the rest of my life, as I have up to now.

A Request for Healing

LORD JESUS, you are almighty! I now request you, 'Heal me!' I believe that you can grant me health, because you are almighty.

God's Will Should Be Done

LORD JESUS, You have promised, 'All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.' (Matthew 28:18) I am convinced of this fact. Lord Jesus, I leave it up to you how you want to hear my request. 'Yet not as I will, but as you will,' Make me ready to accept your answer. Amen."

The Healing Is a Miracle

The pastor reported to me that after his prayer he had the feeling that a hand had touched him and he was healed. Several thorough examinations showed no more findings. The professor exclaimed, "Try as I may, I can no longer find any stomach cancer. You are

healthy! There is no way to explain this medically. A miracle has taken place in you. You call it an answer to prayer. Be happy and thankful for it!"

Still in God's Service at 80

At the age of 80 this pastor held several evening lectures in my home town. It was my pleasure to experience how people Service at the meetings were being reached through the preaching of the message of Jesus Christ. Many of them took a conscious stand for God and have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior. This devout pastor is visible proof that God can still grant immediate healing even today, if it is God's will. I thank God for this and many other answers to prayer.

One Answer to Prayer: ***Gradual Recovery***

Furthermore God can so answer a request for healing that the condition of the sickness gradually becomes better and the recovery is a slowly progressing process. This process of recovery can stretch out over weeks and months. Under certain circumstances God can bring the sickness to a standstill. We cannot fathom God's motives and should not tell Him what to do here.

Another Answer: ***God Says 'NO!'***

God, however, reserves the right in His decision to answer a request for healing with 'NO.' God hears this request but He does not answer it. This 'NO' as God's answer is indeed the most difficult to understand. We, however, know that the Almighty God makes no mistakes.

We don't know all of the Answers

Nevertheless we can accept this lack of an answer to our request as proof of God's love. God alone knows the reason for His 'NO'. Our human understanding is too limited so that we are able to fathom God' intentions and thoughts in all of their clarity.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the

An Inner Rebellion

heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'" (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Even if God does not answer our requests, our prayers are not in vain. We have the tendency to rebel as a result of sickness and suffering. We are all too quick to rebel against the misfortune which we encounter.

No Answer to the Question: Why?

We start asking questions: "Why does this have to happen to me? Why haven't I been spared? Haven't others deserved my suffering more than I? How can God allow such a thing to happen in my life? These and similar questions only prove that we have not been able to accept the disagreeable situation. We are piling stone on stone on this inner wall of rebellion. This however does not solve our problem.

Sickness as Allowed by God

Sickness as Allowed by God

From my long years of experience in pastoral counseling I am able to bear witness that God's 'NO' to our requests can God nevertheless have a positive effect. When God does not answer the request for healing, we become conscious that God has 'allowed' the sickness even when we do not know the reason for it. We can then give up our inner rebellion against the sickness and the rebellion against God and must recognize that God has allowed the sickness.

Dear reader, if God has not answered your prayer with immediate healing and no gradual recovery has set in either, then you should know that God has 'allowed' the sickness in your life. God will grant you His help. God will daily give you the strength you need to bear your situation.

God gave a very encouraging answer to the complaint of the Israelites:

God gives the Power to Bear Daily

"Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God'? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no-one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:27-31)

We Never Encounter More Than We Can Bear

Furthermore we may be certain that God knows our mental and physical strength. In His love to us He allows nothing to happen to us that is more than the strength we have to bear it. God pledges:

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

A Mother Forces God

It is a dangerous undertaking to try to force God to give us healing and health. I recall a certain mother whose son was very sick. Her husband was already dead. She was alone with her son and now this sickness occurred. When the doctors had given up all hope, she sank into despair. She quarreled with God, "Dear God. you have taken my husband from me. I still have only this one son. You must heal him. You cannot take my only son away from me. If you allow my son to die, then I can no longer believe that you are a God of love. You must keep my son alive for me." It was really an

earnest prayer which this mother sent up to God.

Life-long Imprisonment

A miracle took place. Contrary to the doctors' diagnosis the son became well again. The mother was very happy. God had answered the mother's prayer.

Bitter Self-reproach

In order to make a long story short, the son later fell into bad company. He became a criminal and a murderer. His sentence was life-long imprisonment.

Then the mother began to reproach herself bitterly. With tears in her eyes she confessed, "Actually it is my fault that my son is in prison. I have burdened myself with grave guilt. While he was still innocent, God wanted to lay him to rest. I practically forced God to keep him alive. At that time God wanted to do what was best for my son. Now I must experience this misfortune."

Health at any Price? That is Dangerous!

Health at Any Price

When in His omniscience God does not fulfill our wish to be healed, we are easily subject to the temptation to accept an offer from God's adversary. With the desire 'health at any price' we thoughtlessly seek help and refuge from the Devil's sample collection, consciously or unconsciously.

Count God Out

Whenever it has to do with our health, we may make our request to God. God will answer this prayer in the way he deems best for us. We are being presumptuous however, whenever we mortal human-beings try to issue orders to the Almighty God.

The Devil Is Only Waiting

On the contrary God's adversary is only waiting for the opportunity to receive orders from us. Whoever, for example, is practicing 'burn-quenching,' 'sympathy,' or 'custom,' or carries out any other occult practices, is issuing orders to the Devil. Even if a paternoster is spoken at first, or the three highest names are called upon, the actual secret of success lies in the

incantation spoken softly and inaudibly. In this way the Devil is commanded to render his assistance and the Devil does help and immediately grants the healing longed for.

Alleged Genuine Healing

What are the circumstances with the 'health' thus effected? The following experience was related to me: A certain man had cancer of the stomach. Everything in medical science had failed to work. He brought his request to God, but God did not answer his prayer. However he still had the desire to be healed at 'any price.' Finally he sought out the help of a man who practiced 'magic healing.' The result was amazing. The sick man no longer felt any more pain. Everything was all right and he felt well. This recovery finally convinced even the family that a genuine healing must have take place.

Only A Deadening of the Pain

A few years later the certain man died very suddenly. In order to find out the cause of death, an autopsy was ordered. The doctors established that the cause of death was cancer of the stomach. Great was the astonishment. The allegedly genuine healing through conjuring had obviously been only a deadening of the pain. The sickness itself had not been healed.

What Are the Consequences of Superstition and Occult Practices?

The burden resulting from claiming the assistance of Satan has far-reaching consequences. It has to do with a shocking state of affairs. The Devil wants to prevent his true character from being revealed. Only God can give us the help necessary here.

A Suggested Prayer: Please, Pray Aloud

Dear reader, before we concern ourselves with the burden through occult practices, I would like to first invite you to pray the following prayer to God for His help and His divine support. It is only a suggested

prayer, but I ask you to pray it aloud:

> ***ALMIGHTY GOD, in the name of Jesus I now come to you with my request and my gratitude. Show me in my life where I have participated in occult practice. Grant me a clear understanding as to what consequences and effects this devilish assistance is now having in my life. Show me what price the Devil is demanding of me. You have promised me in Your Word, 'But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.'*** *(John 16:13)* ***I believe this promise. I thank you that I have recognized where I have become guilty and what consequences this has had in my life.***
>
> ***I want to now place myself under God's protection and I appeal to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who promised, 'And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*** *(Acts 2:21)* ***I am fully confident that Jesus Christ can really save me from Satan's power. I thank you for the visible victory which you have now granted me. Amen."***

First of all let us establish an important fact: **JESUS IS THE VICTOR!** God's Word states:

JESUS IS THE VICTOR

"He who does what is sinful is of the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work." (1 John 3:8)

It can no longer be avoided, however; we must concern ourselves with the unpleasant subject of burden. In this way we will become better acquainted with Satan's character and his true intentions.

The Main Concern

The concern of this book consists of not only presenting the negative effects of occult practices;

JESUS IS THE VICTOR

the main concern is: God gives genuine freedom! The 'Glad News' should be known to all. Thousands of readers, me included, have taken the **"Path to Freedom" pp. 184, ff.** described here. The results of all experiences show that 'JESUS IS THE VICTOR!' Dear reader, you, too, can experience this delivering victory.

The Devil Demands Ruthlessly

Everyone who, consciously or unconsciously, accepts the help of the Devil at some time, must pay a price. It makes no difference whether we only do this out of curiosity, whether it is our final attempt to obtain help, or whether we are participating because it is 'the thing to do.' Our motives are of no concern to the Devil. On the surface he is only helping us, but then he ruthlessly demands his due.

Repayment is Demanded

For example, we could apply for a loan at a bank. There are some papers to be filled out. Information is submitted and then we receive the amount applied for. With the money we can fulfill our wishes, an automobile, furniture, a holiday trip or the purchases necessary for our personal desires. It is up to us how we spend the money, —however, we must pay back the credit to the bank, including the interest agreed upon. The same principle applies to the 'Devil's credit' as well.

The 'Service Costs'

The Devil always demands a price for his services, but not everyone has to pay the same price, The 'service costs' can become perceptible in many different ways: changes in character, mental depression, perversion, susceptibility to addiction, organic damage, the appearance of ghosts, devil-possession, or a crisis in faith.

Everyone Pays a Different Price

The price can be demanded in many different ways. There is a variety of burdens cropping up in different ways in different persons. Often there is a combination of the various areas which are implicated. No one situation is the same as another. Dear reader, with this unpleasant subject there is nevertheless **'Good News'**: Jesus Christ can grant you deliverance from every burden.

Changes in Character

Pig-headiness

As a result of engaging in superstition or occult practices one can develop a nature which can be called 'pig-headedness.' No one can give him any advice. He rejects every sensible argument. His motto is: "Banging my head against the wall!" These people suffer very much from their disposition. Many times they reveal to their friends, "My pig-headedness will be one day the ruin for me!"

A Heart of Stone

A devout lady who had practiced table-turning and reading the cards in her youth was suffering from an extraordinary hard character. There was scarcely an event that could move her. She herself said, "I have a heart of stone; I suffer from my hard-heartedness!"

A Morose Nature

A man who had occupied himself with the Zodiac intensively and had studied his horoscope attentively became a morose and unsociable person. He had great difficulty in making contact with others and led a very secluded life.

Quarrelling

Another lady practiced reading the cards and engaged in fortune-telling. She had continually a quarrel with her family and her friends. Quarrelling had practically become the centre of her life.

Irreconcilability

Another result of occult burden can be irreconcilability. It is impossible for this person to become reconciled, to ask for forgiveness or to forgive

others, even if he wants to. One lady confessed to me, "I do not want to become reconciled at all!"

Greed, Extravagance

Greed or unlimited extravagance can also be burdens which make life difficult and which the person himself feels is a burden.

Irritation

Whoever is easily irritated by every little trifle is possibly paying his price in this area. There are some people who literally fall from one irritation into the other. Even if one thinks he is simply so disposed, it is certainly not normal behavior.

As a child another lady had been healed through magic. She was a good, reborn Christian, but every little thing irritated her immeasurably. She was suffering very much from her disposition. Only after she had taken the path to freedom, did she experience how Jesus Christ had completely freed her of this burden.

A Violent Temper

Belonging to changes in character can be a violent temper. A violent temper is certainly not one of the characteristics which God has given us on life's highway. Perhaps those concerned assert to us, "I have inherited my violent temper. I am simply violent all of the time." That could possibly be only an apologetic self-justification. One tried everything, but is simply not able to get control of a violent temper. A violent temper can be a price which we must pay. However there is no need for us to remain hot-tempered the rest of our lives. God can grant deliverance here, too.

One upstanding, young man was not only addicted to smoking, but was also extraordinarily hot-tempered. He himself was also afraid of his own violent outbursts of temper. His mother had practiced many occult customs on him. Here was the cause of his violent temper. His confession ran: "If only I had known the path to

freedom earlier, I would not have been tormented with my violent temper so long. I thank God that I have now become free of it!"

Changes in Character Are Always Negative

Changes in the character as the consequence of occult practices always result in negative behavior. God's adversary ostensibly offers us enticing help; actually he only gives us very poor service. In any case we must pay a high price for the Devil's services. This help is not worth the while. God rewards our trust; we receive from Him genuine help and divine freedom.

Mental Depression

Depression

Depression plays a great role in mental sickness today. There are so many different kinds of depression: i.e., depression from exhaustion as an occupational hazard for house-wives, workers and students, depression evoked by the 'midlife crisis,' by retirement and by many other external causes.

Medical Treatment Is a Prerequisite

Another vast area comprises psychological disturbances dependent upon the brain and the so-called 'endogen psychoses' a Prerequisite ('endogen': coming from within). Depression having an organic cause must, of course, be treated by a doctor. After the doctor has completed his diagnosis, the treatment with a corresponding therapy can then be started.

Melancholy

There is also depression, however, which can be caused by engaging in occult practices. Only God can give freedom from this melancholy.

Suicidal Thoughts

Many people are tormented by suicidal thoughts. One woman had removed her warts with magic charms. Still later she had a serious burn quenched through an occult practice. She was tormented by thoughts of suicide and a constant threat of fear. Every time she saw a knife, she experienced a strong urge to

kill herself. Her thoughts were, "Take the knife and put an end to your life!" Even after she had surrendered her life to Jesus and had been baptized according to the Bible, the urge would not go away. Only after she had taken the path to freedom, did she become free of all burdens. Literally a new life then began for her.

Anxiety

An inexplicable condition of fear can also be a burden as well. Whoever is being tormented by this terrible anxiety is afraid of the dark, of being alone, often perspires profusely and often has the feeling as if there is someone invisibly present. Now and then these people experience terrible nightmares.

Compulsion, Persecution Complex

'Compulsion1 also belongs to mental sickness. It can manifest itself in a persecution complex or in any other kind of 'complex.' People having a 'wash complex' are continually washing their hands 60 or 70 times a day, although they are not dirty at all.

One lady who went to a fortune-teller regularly and had the cards read was suffering from a 'lice complex.' She was not to be dissuaded that she had lice in her hair and had to wash her hair several times a day in order to be clean. There was absolutely no sign of lice anywhere. All the attempts to persuade her that there were no lice anywhere were of no avail.

Super-Sensitivity

On our way through life God has given us a healthy measure of sensitivity. There are people, however, who suffer from super-sensitivity. When a wrong word has been said, they take it personally. They struggle against this super-sensitivity and possibly need a few days until their psychological equilibrium has been restored again. With the next 'trifle' they again feel insulted and take it personally. They cannot extricate themselves from this abnormal sensitivity unless

God sets them free.

Impatience and a Lack of Self-control

One further mental disturbance can be seen in impatience and a lack of self-control. One mother complained, "I would like to be the best mother of all but many times it simply comes over me: I lose my patience and self-control and then 1 have to uncontrollably hit and whip my children. When this terrible impatience takes over me, I no longer know what 1 am doing. Afterwards I am so sorry for everything!" Unbridled impatience and a lack of self-control are some of the Devil's prices. God can also grant deliverance here.

The Bill Is Very High

Many have confessed to me, "If I had only known how high the price was to be, I would never have claimed the help of the Devil. I must now suffer more than before." It is true, we can seek help from God's adversary, but when he charges the bill to my account, we must pay a high price. We must continue to pay until Jesus annuls the Devil's due and makes it invalid.

Sexual Perversions and Strange Behavior

Sex Drive Is a Gift from God

One of the gifts God gave to mankind is sex drive. The Holy Scriptures tell us:

> *"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them: 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it. "(Genesis 1:27-28)*

Perversion Brings Misery

Sex drive is of divine origin and is to be accepted. If, however, sex drive is perverted, then disastrous misery will result from the gift which God has given to man as a blessing and a joy. More and more so-called 'sexual deliverance' is revealing its shady side. The unrestricted 'pleasure gain' demands its price on various levels. The urge to have to lead a dissolute life, constant masturbation even in marriage, perversity, etc.,

are areas which cause extensive misery and which even the closest members of the family are scarcely aware of.

Constant Adultery

One young woman, the mother of two children, was having problems with her sex drive. Although married, she was nevertheless living in constant adultery. It was shocking to hear her say, "My husband cannot satisfy me! I still need other men. That is my disposition." I was concerned about what could possibly be the cause of her abnormal behavior. Among other things I then asked her, "What do you think about reading the cards?" She answered, promptly, "Oh, would you like to know anything? I can read the cards for you!" In the course of the conversation I found out that she was also engaging in other occult practices as well and that she was very superstitious. After I had become acquainted with the circumstances, it became clear to me why the woman could not control herself sexually. Her sex drive had become perverted. She was paying a high price on the sexual level for the help which she had claimed from Satan.

Problems with Sex Drive

An official confessed to me that he could not control himself in the area of sex. He looked at pornographic magazines regularly. In the course of the conversation it came out that he had intensively occupied himself with astrology and the drawing up of horoscopes. I gave him my book **"The Spell of Superstition Burden and Deliverance"** and requested him to openly give me his opinion about the contents.

God Solved the Problem

When I encountered him again after one week, he informed me, overjoyed, "I have now recognized that practicing the Problem astrology is a sin according to the statements in the Bible. In the meantime I have taken the path to freedom as described in your book. I have confessed all of my sins to Jesus aloud, I have

surrendered my life to Jesus completely, I have renounced my pact with the Devil. The prayers suggested in the book have been of great help to me. Then I requested Jesus to 'affix a seal' to my sexual drive, and I have discovered that I can now control myself and that I no longer have any problems with it.

Pornographic Magazines Burned

I also confessed to Jesus that my thoughts have been thoroughly polluted through the pornographic magazines. I requested Him to liberate me from my poisoned fantasy. I have burned all of my pornographic magazines, my entire library of astrological literature as well as all of my horoscope materials so that they cannot fall into other hands and cause harm there. I am very thankful and happy that I have at last found freedom through Jesus Christ."

Shameful Silence

Perversion appears in the sexual area especially. Today 'sex' is being talked about so much. Whoever is having trouble with his own sex drive, seldom dares to reveal it to anyone else, because he is so ashamed of his trouble. Why don't we come to God with our troubles?

God Grants Normal Behavior

Dear reader, if you are burdened by the occult and are having problems with your sex drive, for example, you can take the **"Path to Freedom", pp. 184, ff.** God will not take your sex drive away from you, after all it is a gift that God has given you, but God can normalize an unnatural or excessive sex drive. You no longer have to live on with this inner distress. After God has helped you, you will be able to lead the life that God has intended you to lead.

Violence

Perversion can also express itself in violence or pleasure in homicidal mania. We are becoming more and more concerned about the reports of people running amok and committing violence. It is often reported that they have heard an inner voice command-

The Inner Voice

ing them to kill. Many a perpetrator justifies his behavior with the fact that a lust for blood simply came over him. This also includes so-called 'ritual murders.' We can be sure that some occult burdens are present in the lives of these deplorable people which, in extreme cases, can then take such consequences.

Diseased Urge to Steal

Another perversion is 'kleptomania,' the diseased and uncontrollable urge to steal. One young man 1 have become acquainted with constantly felt a compulsion to 'take something along' with him. Seldom did a day pass without having stolen something. He could find no explanation for behavior. After questioning him, I found out that he had been occupying himself with occult things.

Susceptibility to Addiction

Another effect of occult practices can consist of a susceptibility to addiction which can take the form of a strong 'dependence.'

Alcoholism

In one house the "Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses," devilish books of magic, were being kept. Constant strife and dissension reigned in this house; the father and his three sons became addicted to alcohol. The wife and mother experienced indescribable suffering through this drunkenness and its consequences. The father literally drank himself to death.

Addiction to Nicotine

Being seriously wounded, a certain man once had his 'blood stanched' by means of a magical spell. He became addicted to nicotine. All of his attempts at giving it up were of no avail. Finally the man took the path to freedom. Jesus Christ freed him from his passion for smoking overnight.

Alcohol: The No. 1 Drug

While we are talking about susceptibility to addiction, we must also mention alcohol as 'the No. 1 Drug.' It is presumed that in the Federal Republic of Germany there are some two and a half to three million people dependent on alcohol. If we reckon the members of the families who are always affected as well, then it would come up to some eight to nine million more people who are constantly being confronted with the problem of alcohol.

Dangerous Drugs

Unfortunately the consumption of drugs is steadily increasing. The most well-known drugs are: hashish, marijuana, heroin, cocaine; counted among the chemical drugs are LSD and mescaline, only to name a few.

It's Not Worth-While

What is true of alcohol is even more so the case with drugs. The 'bottle' or the 'stuff' is stronger than you. The addiction mostly occurs much more quickly than you have reckoned with and wanted to admit. One of my relatives once took LSD merely to try it. She had a 'bad trip' and is still suffering from the effects today, although the dose had already been taken years ago.

God Can Help

It gives God the credit that He can put an end to alcohol addiction, drug addiction and each and every other sort of addiction. Many drug addicts, and here alcoholics are in first place, have already experienced deliverance through God's mighty intervention.

Seek Out Help

Dear reader, If you have a problem in this area, get in contact with a drug-counseling centre in your area or get in contact with the 'AA' (Alcoholics Anonymous), whose address you can find in any telephone book. If you know a devout pastor, entrust yourself to him. He can show you the way in which Jesus will free you from your addiction.

Distressful Addictions

Potentially included in the perversion of drives are also 'excessive appetite' (hyperorexia) and 'lack of appetite' (anorexia), and a passion for gambling,

just to name a few of the problems. If occult burden is the cause of any of these, Jesus can help you and grant you deliverance.

Organic Damage

Physical Complaints

Many times the price-list contains organic damage as well. Now and then the true cause of skin disease, head-aches, nervous complaints, and heart trouble can be traced back to the realm of the occult. If this is the case, Jesus Christ can help you better than the best medical treatment.

Migraine Head-aches

One young lady complained about her agonizing migraine head-aches. All of her medical treatment had been unsuccessful. In pastoral counseling it came out that she had once had her fortune told through reading the cards many years ago. Strange to say she had been suffering from migraine head-aches ever since that time. When the lady recognized what the cause was, she had only one wish: to be liberated by Jesus. From one day to the next she experienced God's help.

Haunting (Poltergeist)

The Effects of Spiritualism

Wherever spiritualism séances have been held or spirits have been consulted unexplainable haunting often take place through loud knocking on the walls, rattling of the windows and other peculiar noises. Objects are moved about the room or thrown into the air, furniture is moved out of place, doors are opened and closed, etc; all by unseen hands.

It is understandable this greatly alarms and terrifies the occupants, for they usually know nothing at all about what spiritualism things the previous occupants had practiced in the house, in the apartment, or in a certain room. Jesus is in a position to grant lasting

The End of the Haunting

peace and quiet from such disturbances and to put an end to the haunting.

A young girl who had joined a circle of young people reported to me that she was daily studying and practicing the directions in the "Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses" together with others. She was engaging in magic sorcery and consulting the alleged spirits of the dead through table-turning. After increasingly mysterious accidents had occurred within the group, they decided to stop using the magic books. The girl then described to me how later inexplicable sounds of knocking, scratching and running were

making themselves heard. Objects were flying through the air, cabinet doors opened alone, and she often felt a cold draft of air, even though windows or doors were closed.

These frightening haunting only disappeared after the girl had entrusted her life to Jesus and had given up every occult practice. After having experienced deliverance from this heavy burden through Jesus Christ, she has now become a joyous Christian and is telling others about the help she has found in Jesus.

Possession

In the case of a 'siege' a person is exposed to the strong attacks of Satan from without, while in the case of possession the demon is controlling his life from within.

Satan's Power But Deliverance Through Jesus

The Bible reports how Jesus, during His life here on Earth, drove out evil spirits and delivered those possessed of the Devil. Even today there is devil-possession where one or several demons have taken possession of a person. We, too, can rejoice! Jesus Christ is still the Victor over all the demons and over possession today as well. When Jesus orders his adver-

sary to depart, he must depart and the person plagued then becomes free, the 'siege' is raised and an end is put to the 'possession.' When the Spirit of God then takes possession of our lives, a new, delivered life begins for each of us.

Evil spirit control

Different Opinions

Dr. Wade, a physician, writes from his personal experience and study:" Evil spirit possession is closer to your own doorstep than you think."

Here is his report:

> *"I'm going to tell you about a young lady who had a frightful experience with evil spirit possession. My purpose is not entertainment. And it's not to inform you that such things happen; tragically, stories like this are all too common. I want you to see, first, how satanic control or release from it depends on the choice of the individual; and second, how, through our prayer relationship with God, His Spirit can release those who choose His freedom." (Names have been changed, but the stories are true.)*
>
> *"In each instance the mental function of the affected individual is obviously abnormal. However, opinions differ concerning the conditions and causes producing these types of strange behavior. The educational background which shapes the understanding of the different observers tints or glaringly colors their conclusions."*
>
> *"I believe that the sincere Christian should develop a philosophical stance which sees scientific observation as a legitimate source of truth within the bounds our Creator has opened for our study. Without such a harmonizing position, the conclu-*

Wrong Conclusions Are Possible

sions of persons trained to understand the working of the human mind will remain incompatible with the views of those who have studied mostly in the domain of theology."

Sandy's encounter with evil

Rock Music is Not Harmless

"For several weeks Sandy and her roommate at a Christian boarding school had been secretly listening to rock music records. She was depressed and couldn't concentrate on her studies. She began having headaches and frightful nightmares. The girls were afraid to tell anyone what was really going on."

A Horrifying Experience

"One afternoon Sandy fainted. When she revived, the dean urged her to lie down and relax. That evening the two girls played one of their records again. Satan seemed to be speaking in the background in a horrifying manner. Sandy began to cry and scream. Someone called her brother at the boy's dormitory."

"When he arrived, Sandy seemed to look right through him, eyes glaring with panic. He and the boy's dean tried to restrain her, feeling she might hurt herself. But she easily pushed them aside with her scant 90 pounds. Whenever someone would start to pray, she would scream and laugh with a hideous deep voice. A Bible was placed in her hand but she threw it aside. Someone asked, 'Satan, why don't you get out and leave Sandy alone? She belongs to Jesus'."

Satan's Answer

"'I know she belongs to God and you,' the voice replied, 'but I am going to take all I can get.'"

The Broken Rock Record Brings Release

"Someone in the group found the record and broke it. It was then that God answered their prayers for release. Sandy later explained that she could hear the people around her but that all she could see was the devil sitting beside her on her bed. When the record was broken, she felt release from the power which had controlled her. Then she joined the others in singing and prayer. She clasped her Bible and promised, 'I will never let you go again.'"

Students Give a Good Example

"The experience made a serious impression on the students. Several of them destroyed rock records and books on magic which they had kept hidden from the deans."

"Following this crisis, Sandy was considerably shaken. Gradually her composure and self-confidence returned, and after a few weeks, she seemed to be her usual, happy self."

Complete Deliverance

"As this book goes to press, twelve years have passed since the horrible night of Sandy's experience with the evil one. She is now a pastor's wife and a mother. Demon possession or other emotional problems have not recurred." (2)

Pastor Glenn Gessele reports:

"A few days after Sandy's victory, which Dr. Wade has reported in the previous paragraph, I received a call from the boy's dormitory. The student monitor spoke with anxiety! We need you right away. Bob is possessed!"

Commitment to Satan

The Greater Power

"I hurried to the dormitory. Bob was threatening harm to himself and to others. The voice of the

demon who spoke through him was obviously different from Bob's own voice. Fearing we might be struck, we prayed for the young man with our eyes open. Each time we mentioned the name, 'Jesus,' the demon would cringe and then after a moment would laugh hideously. The voice would utter statements such as, 'There is no Jesus, There is no blood, there is no cross,' as if to deny the validity of our prayers."

A Short Prayer

"Because I believe it is unwise to converse with the 'father of lies,' I asked God to bring victory. I would pray, 'Father, although Bob is not in control of his mind just now, we ask that through the blood of Jesus, you would release him from the demons and give him the power to make up his own mind.'"

The Demons Did Not Give Up

"Then the demon would leave. The young man, physically exhausted, would relax and talk in his own voice. When we felt that victory had been gained, there would be resurgence. This occurred two or three times. The demons did not give up easily."

"Then Bob jumped out the second story window onto a roof. The dean and I hurried outside to talk to him. Bob was standing at the edge of the roof with the demon saying, I'm going to throw Bob down and kill him.' Again, without taking my eyes off him, I prayed, 'Dear Jesus, we ask that you give Bob control of his own mind and another opportunity to choose what he wants to do with his life.' Finally, with much ugliness, the demon said, 'All right, all right, I'll leave. But I'll be back again tomorrow night."'

A Commitment to Satan

"The young man was himself again except that he seemed slightly confused and didn't seem to know how he got on the porch roof I suggested, 'Bob, why

don't you just turn and lower yourself over the edge. I will be here to help you down.' We went back inside, thanking the Lord for the deliverance. As we talked, I asked, 'Bob, have you in any way made a commitment to Satan?' He replied, 'Yes, I have.' We encouraged him to ask God for forgiveness and to claim the greater power that is ours through Jesus. While we were talking, no genuine desire to be Christ's child was apparent, although he was very much afraid of the devil."

"The demon did return the following week."

No Desire to Get the Help From Jesus

"If permitted, Satan is able to slip in and take over a person's mind and body. In Sandy's case, she persistently listened to records which she knew to be forbidden and satanic. Bob was aware that he had made a commitment to serve Satan. Perhaps now his mind had become deformed and was unable to respond to the Holy Spirit, although shaken by the experience, he did not seem open to our suggestion that he tell the Lord, 'I'm sorry. Help me. I'll try again.'"

Students Were Greatly Concerned

"Since these cases were common knowledge in the dormitories, all the students were greatly concerned. They read their Bibles and prayed as they had never prayed before. Two other young ladies developed symptoms suggesting lost contact with reality. Whether these were merely fear responses or mild forms of possession was never clear." (3)

Enchanting symbols and music

Pastor Glenn Gessele continues:

Strange and Scary Experiences

"I think of another experience I had while pastor at the secondary school where Sandy and Bob were students. I was approached by a young man who had been a student here a few years earlier, and who was no longer a practicing Christian. He was married and lived in the community. He revealed that he was concerned about the students but even more concerned about himself. He said, 'Since I have been exploring witchcraft and the occult, I have been having strange and scary experiences. I see an ugly face hovering over my bed at night.' Then before I could respond he added, 'But don't pray for me. Just tell me what to do if I should choose to be free from this."

Influence of Demonic Symbols

"He was afraid that if I prayed, a tremendous struggle would take place and he wasn't ready to make a decision or to endure the struggle. I agreed, 'All right. I will not pray in your presence, but when you are gone I will pray.' As we continued to talk, he said, 'Pastor, I've been hearing about some of the things going on in the dormitories at the school Is it true that in one of the rooms or in the basement of the boy's dorm, there is a certain symbol on the ceiling or on the wall? I've heard that there's a demon symbol there and I just wanted to share with you my concern, because I don't think these young people know what they're doing.' This young man, only two or three years older than some of the students, and not living a Christian life, was worried about them."

Stop the Evil Powers

"He said, 'I'm going to tell you why I'm concerned. I've done a lot of reading and study about witchcraft and demon possession and things like this. There's a lot of power in those symbols. Putting up those symbols is an admission that you would like to have devil powers around. I'm afraid for these stu-

dents.' Then he added, 'Some of the records that many of us are listening to these days are inspired by demons.'"

Influence of Demonic Music

"Records of harsh, loud, enchanting music with violent rhythm had become increasingly popular. The subliminal suggestions that came across and the lyrics containing songs of praise for the devil were also significant. Then he said, I have some of those records. Would you be interested in hearing them for yourself.'?"

"'Not particularly,' I told him. 'I'll take your word for it.'"

It Is Dangerous To Listen

"'Well, I didn't think you would want to hear them. But, you know, it's dangerous to listen to such records.'"

"I found it hard to believe that he could be concerned for others when he himself was dabbling in this kind of thing."

Problems unresolved

Demon Possession

"Since that time, I have seen more cases of demon possession. Late one night, I received a phone call urging me to visit a young couple immediately. Bill, the husband, seemed to have lost his mind. I asked a neighboring pastor to accompany me. When we reached Bill's home, he had a knife in his hand and appeared very much possessed. We heard two contrasting voices. One would make threats such as, 'I am going to kill him. I am going to stick it in his heart.' We prayed for protection. We asked for the knife and he gave it to us. We asked whether he had been convicted that he should turn over to the Lord a certain area of his life which he was unwilling to surrender. The young man replied, 'Yes, it's my friends

Not Willing To Surrender Problems to Jesus

down in the city. I dread to go there because within hours 1 fall back into my old habits - cursing, swearing, drinking, feeling contempt for spiritual things. That must be where the devil gets into my life. I haven't surrendered that area to the Lord.'"

Devil Inspired Suicides?

"Unfortunately Bill's problems didn't end with our visit. For a while he continued having ups and downs. A few years later, he was killed in a dreadful automobile accident. How many such deaths may be devil-inspired suicides, no one knows."

Unwillingness to repent

A Commitment To Satan

"When I conduct a series of spiritual emphasis meetings with students I encourage them to share with me some of the problems and joys they are experiencing. I recall one young lady whose Christian experience wasn't getting anywhere. She had more than the ordinary adolescent fears. I finally asked 'Have you, either in jest or seriously, made a commitment to Satan? Have you ever said something like, 'Satan you can use me,' or 'you can have me,' or I dare you to try'?"

"At this she looked sharply at me and asked, 'How did you know?'"

The Wrong Choice

"I admitted I didn't know, but that from what I understood about demon possession, I felt the kind of problems she was describing come about as a result of an outright choice to be on Satan's side. I asked whether the Holy Spirit had convicted her and if she had been unwilling to yield to Him. This she confirmed." (4)

Now we understand quite better the warning of Dr. Wade and we are thankful for it:

An Important Warning

"Evil spirit possession is closer to your own doorstep than you think. And whether or not you accept any of its forms into your mind, it is bound to affect your future." (5)

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Yes, all who are incensed against you

shall be ashamed and disgraced;
those who strive against you
shall be as nothing
and shall perish. (Isaiah 41:10, 11) NRSV

Crisis in Faith

A Crisis in Faith

One of the saddest subjects is a crisis in faith. When the Devil demands his price here, he is revealing the treacherous nature of his character. If faith in Jesus Christ is taken away from a person, he is practically cut off from the only person who can help him. A crisis in faith is often the worst distress in which the Devil can plunge a person. Very often those who are oppressed do not perceive this condition as distress. On the contrary, they are even proud of their way of life.

A Doubting Spirit

A doubting spirit also belongs here. Whoever is plagued with it has great difficulty in believing. Everything is placed in doubt, especially in the area of faith. For each and every statement in the Holy Scriptures there is an 'if and 'but.' A childlike faith is re-

garded to be backward.

The Joy of Doubting

There are two kinds of doubters: There are people who enjoy doubting. Their motto is: "In any case doubt!" If you are numbered among this group of people, God will not take your pleasure in doubting away from you. You can enjoy your doubt as long as you want to.

Honest Doubt

If, however, you belong to those persons whose honest doubts are a cause of suffering, you may then know that Jesus Christ can free you. You will experience the day on which you can honestly believe again, without having to first place everything in question.

Fanaticism

Perhaps you are suffering from a delight in making fun of others, or you are self-righteous and do not know it at all. Spiritual arrogance, fanaticism, and quarrelsomeness belong to the prices numbered among the crises in faith.

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A Strange Change of Mood

Dear reader, certainly you have already experienced the following situation: In a conversation you had succeeded in directing the conversation into the area of religion and had been telling about God's love and the help which Jesus had given you. Suddenly you had the feeling that your partner was lost in thought. You noticed how he was obviously thinking about other things and no longer concentrating on what you were telling him about. An 'iron curtain' had suddenly fallen between you and the person opposite you. Perhaps you then asked yourself in that situation how such a change of mood could be explained.

Lovely People

I recall a personal experience: On a visit to my relatives in Chicago I became acquainted with a lovely married couple. They were Yugoslavian Germans who had immigrated to Canada many years before. They had sold their large farm and were living in re-

An Iron Curtain Fell

tirement. They were relating about their life and I was enjoying listening to them. They were friendly, helpful people which I thought highly of.

In the course of our conversation it had become late. It was time to go to bed. I then said, "Before we go to bed, I would very much like to read a text from the Holy Scriptures and then pray." Suddenly I had the feeling as if an 'iron curtain' had just fallen between us. All conversation ceased. The man looked away into one corner of the room and the wife into the other. The silence was deafening! Somehow or other I had the feeling that the couple suddenly did not feel very comfortable any longer. I prayed and we then went to bed. This incident occupied my thoughts. I was most interested as to what the cause of this peculiar behavior could be.

The Riddle is solved

During breakfast the next morning I casually asked whether superstition was very wide-spread in Canada. The clear answer was no. 1 then wanted to know, "Is the divining-rod also used in Canada?" Affirming this, the old farmer answered, "We always did that, whenever we were looking for water for our fields. In the prairie you cannot operate a fan without enough water. The Divining-rod made finding water much easier for us."

In the course of the conversation the wife reported, "Just imagine! I used to have a lot of warts before. Then someone told me how I could get rid of them. That was a peculiar recipe - but it helped anyway. Look, I no longer have any more warts." She then showed me her hands which were indeed free of warts.

"In case of toothache: We would have had to travel about sixty miles to the nearest dentist. We could not afford that during the harvest. But we had a neighbor who could conjure it. This man really helped us." It

now became clear how and how often these nice people were asking help of the Devil without even suspecting it.

It was also clear to me then why this couple was not interested in things having to do with religion. They had paid a price and it was a high price. This experience already took place many years ago, but I am still including this couple in my prayers that they may choose the path to freedom and that Jesus will be able to open their hearts for divine things.

Drowsiness

'Drowsiness' when listening to the Word of God is also to be numbered among the crises in faith. After having often made use of the help of fortune-tellers and having engaged in all sorts of magic during his youth, a man became a reborn Christian. It was, however, very peculiar how, during a sermon or Biblical topic, he would suddenly become so tired that he would fall asleep. Even if he had had more than enough sleep, every time the Word of God was preached, a great drowsiness would come over him.

Resistance to God

Another crisis in faith occurring often is an inner resistance to God, the Bible and the Christian Faith. Those plagued with it are usually aware of neither the cause nor the circumstances.

A Male Nurse's Inner Distress

One young male nurse had been occupying himself with statements in the Bible over a longer period of time. After we had become acquainted, we took up the subject of God's great offers in a few Bible studies. With the decision to accept Jesus Christ as his personal savior and to surrender to Him the rule over his life the nurse still had one problem, "I am convinced that the Bible is the book of divine truth. I believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died, was buried and arose from the dead. I know that Jesus lives! I know that Jesus is making me the best offer. Jesus loves me; I am con-

vinced of this. 1 should surrender my life to Him. I only need to say, 'Here I am. I want to belong to you. Come into my life!' - But I just cannot manage it. For some time now I have rationally been fully ready to say yes to God's offer, but there is still something hindering me from taking this step. I feel a great resistance within me. I simply cannot make a decision, although I know that this would be the best decision of my life. I am very miserable; something within me is holding me back."

The Cause: Occult Practices

My suspicion that there could be an occult burden here was confirmed by his report in the ensuing conversation. His father, a fanner, was having a well bored. In order to avoid finding no water, he sent for a dowser who was supposed to find a vein of water. The nurse took advantage of this opportunity to learn now to handle the divining-rod. Later he had once taken advantage of the help of a fortune-teller.

Thoughtless Belittlement

He was very astonished by my suspicion that the cause of the resistance within him could lie here. I asked him to read my book "The Spell of Superstition." When I again met him, his comment on its contents was, "I have read the exposition, but I cannot share your opinion that engaging in occult practices could have any consequences and that any price would be demanded for the assistance. I see the matter differently and I view the use of the divining-rod and the information of a fortune-teller as completely harmless. I simply do not think anything of it!"

Satan's Grave Hindrance

Dear reader, even if we do not think anything of it - the Devil, in any case, does, when we claim his assistance. He is inevitably leading people into dependency on him. God's adversary knows that Jesus can liberate us from all bonds and put an end to his power. Satan wants to hinder this and is seeing to it that

a person either offers resistance to divine things or shows no interest in them at all. In such situations a crisis in faith is revealed which those concerned are not aware of at all.

The Necessity of Intercession

The nurse informed me that he no longer had any interest in continuing our religious discussions, as he was constantly feeling this resistance within him. Whenever I think of this nurse, I include him in my prayers. As long as a person lives, God, in His love, can reach his heart and repel Satan's power so that a decision can still be made for Jesus. I am thankful that there is this possibility for intercession. The ways of God will find the right time for the answer to prayer.

People who have been consulting the dead through spiritualism are venturing into Satan's immediate sphere of influence. They often have great difficulty in making a decision for Jesus.

God's warnings are clear and we should take them seriously:

God's Warning about Spiritualism

"Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them." (Leviticus 19:31)

"I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute him by following them, and I will cut him off from his people." (Leviticus 20:6)

"A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads." (Leviticus 20:27)

Consulting the Dead Is Forbidden by God

"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or

spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you." (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

"When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a

people enquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn." (Isaiah 8:19-20)

Can Children Inherit a Disposition through Their Ancestors?

An Unknown Fact

We can recognize the seriousness of the subject in that the Devil can demand his due for his assistance even from the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Consequences for the Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren

"Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared: 'The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.'" (Numbers 14:17-18)

God's instructions mean that if my parents, grandparents or great-grandparents have once claimed the Devil's assistance, God's adversary can still demand a price from me.

The Second Commandment

This circumstance has already been mentioned in the Ten Commandments. The Second Commandment, according to the original Biblical version but left out of the Catholic and Lutheran catechisms, runs so:

> *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in Heaven above or on the Earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for 1, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:4-6)*

Burden Through the Ancestors

The consequences of superstition, occult practices and spiritualism are indeed terrifying. Satan can demand a price in my life, even if I myself have never claimed his assistance. The fact that my ancestors have received help from the Devil is enough.

Our Great Responsibility

We not only have a great responsibility for us ourselves but also for our descendants. No one should thoughtlessly belittle superstition, occultism or spiritualism. The 'detestable sins' have serious effects and far-reaching consequences. In His love God urgently warns us against them. He wants to protect us from harm.

Burden Causes Discouragement

One devout man who had never ventured into the Devil's realm in his life was suffering from constant anxiety and strong suicidal thoughts; furthermore, he was tormented by a fear of others whenever he wanted to witness for Jesus. Although he was living out his Christian Faith in his life and was consciously standing in the ranks of the followers of Jesus, he had to struggle with this burden daily and was often discouraged. He could find no plausible explana-

The Causes Lay in the Past

tion for his condition anywhere.

One day he obtained knowledge of certain circumstances which had been unknown to him up to then and were the explanation of why he constantly had anxiety, suicidal thoughts and a fear of others.

One of his grandmothers had been a spiritualism and had practiced table-tilting and had engaged in fortune-telling and reading the cards. His other grandmother had understood 'sympathy' and had successfully treated children suffering from rickets (the English disease) with her occult practices. His grandfather had been a dowser and could also 'quench burns.' These circumstances were very clear; his ancestors had claimed the assistance of the Devil. The Devil made use of his rights and was still demanding his due in the life of this devout man. This man already knew the path to freedom. He made a comprehensive confession of his sins aloud to Jesus, carried out a complete surrender of his life to Jesus, renounced the pact which his ancestors had made with the Devil, he himself then informed the Devil of his renunciation —and experienced total deliverance. Jesus took all of the burdens away from him which had come upon him through his ancestors. Literally a 'new life' then began for him.

Deliverance Becomes a Reality

The Role Played by the 14 Ancestors

Dear reader, it is possible that the Devil is demanding his due in your life, too, because your ancestors have once claimed the assistance of the Devil. Going back to your great-grandparents, your ancestors number some 14 persons. Who of us has the possibility of finding out what detestable sins had been committed by them? This is not necessary-. Decisive is the fact that you can experience deliverance through Jesus. See **Appendix 5, pp. 242 ff.**

Deliverance is Important

We have thoroughly handled the topic of the spell of superstition and the burden resulting from it. Of course, there are still many other kinds of burdens which have not been mentioned here. It cannot be the concern of this book to list everything in great detail. More important is the "Path to Freedom" which will be described in the next two chapters.

You Can Take the Path to Freedom

Dear reader, at the beginning of this exposition you have prayed. In this way you have given the Holy Spirit the opportunity of getting to know you and your situation in life. If you are in a distressful situation, you can come to Jesus and take the path to freedom.

Jesus loves you!

Jesus can help you!

Jesus wants to help you!

Jesus wants to help you even today!

God's Pledge

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15)

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John 8:44
SATAN
God's Adversary
OBEDIENCE
HELP AND ASSISTANCE
ANGEL OF LIGHT
Benefactor, Helper
I Seek my help from Satan
DETESTABLE SIN
For Satan's help I must
PAY A PRICE
DETESTABLE SINS have
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
Satan oppressed me:
BURDEN
God's Warning and Judgement
Romans 6:16
John 3:19-20
2 Cor. 11:14
Deut. 17:2-5
Lev. 20:27
Isa. 47:13-14
Deut. 18:9-14
DETESTABLE SINS
SATAN'S OFFER
MANTIC:
Astrology
Graphology
Palm-reading
Horoscope
Card-reading
Oscillating
Dowsing
Interpreting dreams
Omen-reading
MAGIC:
Amulets
Magnetic-healing
"Heavenly Insurance"
Hypnosis
Yoga
Magic: white & black
Conjuring
Faith-healing
Removing warts
Letters of protection
Talisman
Magic Books:
'The 6th & 7th Books of Moses'
'The Black Raven'
'The Help of Angels'
'Holy Blessings'
'The School of the Secret Arts'
SPIRITISM:
Glass-tilting
Medium
Table-turning
Spaking in trance
Calling up the Dead
GOD'S HELP
REDEEMER
JESUS CHRIST
SAVIOUR
GOD LOVES ME
GOD'S LOVE GARANTS
Romans 5:8-9
1 John 4:8-10
HELP and SUPPORT
Matt. 11:28-30
1 John 3:18
James 1:17
Romans 10:13
FREEDOM
John 8:31-36
PEACE & HAPPINESS
John 14:27
Psalm 18:2,3,33
Psalm 91

Deliverance through Jesus

Dear reader, there is **'Good News'** for you. Ac- *'God's News' for you*
According to the statements in the Holy Scriptures,

> *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)*
>
> ***"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*** *(John 8:36)*

Jesus loves you! Jesus Christ wants to deliver you from your burden no matter under what 'Devil's Due' you are suffering.

Deliverance through Jesus makes sense only *Deliverance Only for Prisoners*
where there is imprisonment, burden and sin.

> *"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9)*

What Role Does the Recognition of One's Own Sins Play?

The first condition for God's help and deliverance is the recognition of one's own sins. A prisoner longs for freedom and deliverance. An attempt to deliver someone who does not feel he is a prisoner or would rather just spend his existence in prison is meaningless.

Without the recognition of one's own sins we ***Pardon Only for the Guilty***
cannot know what to do with God's offer of

help. Why should God help us? When we have not recognized our sins, we feel we are in the right. When we have done nothing wrong, we do not know what to do with God's forgiveness. Let us suppose I have committed a crime and have been fined a heavy sum of money. If one day I was pardoned from the payment of the fine, this would be literally good news to me. 1 would be happy and thankful for this kindness. If I have never been fined, 1 would not be able to know what to do with this pardon. It would have no meaning for me.

Jesus Christ has died for me because I am a sinner. I can only do something with this fact if I recognize myself to be a sinner. If I recognize my need, I will seek help and will be ready to accept this help. The Holy Scriptures will give me a proper understanding of my wrongs and will help me to see the sin in my life through the eyes of God.

"But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)

Sin Offends God

Sin is treason. Sin is an offence against God. Resistance to God, rebellion against God's rule this is actually the original sin. Sin is no trifle. For my sin Jesus had to dye on the cross..

Occult Practices and God's Standard

Is Faith-healing an Offence to God?

Faith-healing

Dear reader let us suppose you seek help from a 'faith-healer.' He prays a Paternoster aloud and then softly calls on still other powers and forces. How can you know whose help he is claiming? Whoever prays softly and undertakes certain actions has something to hide. When 'someone else' is called upon, is that not an

offence to God?

God's Opinion

"This is what the Lord says, He who made the Earth the Lord who formed and established it—the Lord is His name: 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'... 'Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.'" (Jeremiah 33:2, 3, 6)

God wants to and can heal. Seeking help from someone else is sin!

What God Thinks of Amulets and Talisman

Amulets and Talisman

Whoever wears or keeps an amulet or talisman expects help and protection from these lifeless objects. The Living God deserves our trust. Is that then not an offence against God? The First Commandments runs: "You shall have no other gods before Me."

The Second Commandment forbids us to bow down to or worship any kind of idols. Should we treat the statements and Commandments of God so lightly? See **Appendix 6: "The Ten Commandments", p. 259.**

Fortune-telling, Card-reading, Magical Conjuring, Augury, etc. – Only a Harmless Past-time?

According to God's opinion:

Fortune-telling, Card reading, Augury

"They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking Him to anger." (2 Kings 17:17)

"He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the

Lord, provoking Him to anger." (2 Kings 21:6)

We are easily inclined to first seek help from other people and their mysterious practices. Why don't we first turn to God?

> *"This is what the Lord says: 'Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord.'" (Jeremiah 17:5)*

How Are We to Judge the Use of the Pendulum and the Diving-rod?

The statements of God are very clear:

The Pendulum and the Divining-rod

> *"My people consult a wooden idol and are answered by a stick of wood. A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God." (Hosea 4:12)*

What Is God's Opinion of Spiritualism?

The Bible's Statement: The Dead Know Nothing

Spiritualism is gaining more and more attention today. In many circles it has become increasingly popular to participate in The Dead spiritualism séances. What is the concern of spiritualism? The word spiritualism comes from the Latin word 'spiritus' = spirit. Spiritualism is the teaching of being able to make contact with the spirits. Spiritualism tries to prove that man possesses an immortal soul which continues to live on after a person's death.

The statements in the Bible prove exactly the opposite.

> *"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward and even the memory of them is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in*

anything that happens under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom." (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10)

What Is God's Opinion of Consulting the Dead?

The Bible's Opinion of Consulting the Dead

"I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute himself by following them, and I will cut him off from his people."

"A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads." (Leviticus 20:6, 27)

Do we dare to want to make those things which God has designated as sin and an offence to God to appear to be harmless and innocuous?

What Are the Characteristics of True Repentance?

Sin from God's Point of View

The Holy Spirit not only grants me recognition of my own sins, but also brings about sincere repentance of the wrongs committed. If I look at sin through the eyes of God, I will become aware that I have become guilty of Jesus' death through my wrong behavior.

Disgusted by Wrong-doing

Sincere repentance, which only God can give me, is not sorry for the consequences of a wrong deed, but rather views sin through the eyes of God.

From this perspective sin is no mere 'trifle.' If I have recognized that I have offended God and caused Him much grief through my sin, I will become greatly disgusted with every kind of sinful behavior. I will no longer enjoy doing anything which has cost the Son of

God His life.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, I will turn away from wrong-doing and with the help of God rather do what pleases God.

> *"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)*

Why Is Calling Our Sins by Name So Important?

A High Price for Your Sin

Dear reader, sincere repentance always leads to confession. Jesus Christ is waiting for your confession of sins. Jesus has paid a high price for the sins of this world, your sins, too, have cost Him His life. The forgiveness which God is offering is an actual fact. You may confess to Him the sins in your life.

> *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sakes." (1 Peter 1:18-20)*

Jesus Is Waiting for Your Confession of Sins

There are only two possibilities. Either you continue living with your record of sins, or you confess your sins to Jesus. Waiting for and receive full forgiveness of them. You do not receive forgiveness of your sins through Jesus Christ automatically; you yourself have to confess your sins to Jesus. Let me now encourage you to confess your sins to Jesus; your occult sins, too. What is holding you back from 'making your confession' to Jesus? When do you want to make your confession? Do not wait even one day longer, you can do it yet today. Jesus is waiting for your confession of

sins. Name your sins by name and confess them one by one and aloud.

Confession

If you are Catholic, the concept of 'Confession' must be well-known to you. In the confessional you confess your sins to your priest singly and aloud. Jesus Christ is the best 'priest' of all. Make a 'general confession' to Him aloud.

Write Down Your sins and Confess Them

One helpful suggestion: Take out a piece of paper and write down all of the sins which you have committed in your whole life; all of the sins which occur to you and which you have never confessed aloud before. Of course, you can only write down those sins in outline which occur to you. You do not need to worry about your unconscious sins or the sins which have slipped your mind and which you no longer remember. Should the Holy Spirit, however, remind you of another sin one or two days after your general confession, then confess this sin to Jesus by name immediately. Do not carry your sins around with you even one day longer. When you have confessed all of you sins, destroy the piece of paper with your outline on it; this is of no concern to anyone else.

The "Mystery of Sin"

Each and every sin, each and every wrong, has the characteristic of wanting to remain hidden. Each and every sin in your life forms a 'mystery of sin.' Who of us would gladly talk about what he has done wrong? What dishonest book-keeper who has embezzled 10,000 $ would want the embezzlement to be discovered? What official or politician who has accepted a bribe would voluntarily want to tell the public about it? Who would want to talk openly about his extra-marital relationships? Who has taken recourse to lies and half-truths and who would not try anything and everything to prevent his house of lies from caving in?

A Confession Aloud Breaks the 'Mystery of Sin'

Only by confessing your sins aloud will the 'mystery of sin' be broken. If we confess our sins to Jesus Christ singly and aloud, our sins will then come to light. We will bring our sins where they belong, to Jesus Christ, who has died for our sins and for us sinners. Sin has no place in our hearts. Sin belongs under the forgiving power of Jesus.

Any sins not confessed will be held against you on the day of God's Judgment. Jesus Christ will have to say, "I so wanted to forgive you all of your sins. I have been waiting until you would confess your sins to me, but that has not yet happened." Jesus Christ cannot grant you eternal life, because you have failed to accept his offer of forgiveness. It is better that I separate myself from my sins than that my sins separate me from Jesus, my Redeemer.

No conscious sin should be held back. With this confession of sins a complete general confession must be made to Jesus. Should one conscious sin be held back, then a 'mystery of sin' still remains. As long as there is one 'mystery of sin,' the Devil has power over you and can demand his due; you are his debtor.

What Is the Difference between Sin and Guilt?

Sin Lies in the Past

Sin lies in the past. Sometime we have behaved wrongly, have committed a wrong - we have offended God and made ourselves guilty of a sin.

How long does a sin last? A robbery, adultery, reading the cards, a spiritualism séance, conjuring, etc. last only a few minutes or an hour at most; in any case the period of time for a sinful action is relatively short.

Guilt Is in the Present

How long does the sin guilt last? Guilt is present and we suffer from the consequences and effects of our

sin-guilt sometimes our whole life long. Guilt has a creditor. We owe the creditor a sum, a service or restitution. What is weighing on us is not so much the sin, the wrong-doing, which has taken place within the shortest period of time. We are suffering from the consequences of our sins; we are intensively suffering from the guilt, from the burden.

Jesus Puts an End to Guilt

The 'Good News' is: Not only does Jesus Christ forgive our sins - my sins have weighed Him down, they have cost Him His life-but Jesus alone is in a position to put an end to the guilt in my life as well.

Just such an experience caused King David to confess.

The Confession of a King

> *"Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 1 will confess my transgressions to the Lord' - and You forgave the guilt of my sin." (Psalm 32:1-5)*

Satan Exacts His Due

For the help which God's adversary offers us he also demands his price. Whoever has once claimed this alleged help, even if his ancestors have practiced it, has become a debtor to Satan. Who always exacts his due? Such a person then suffers from this demand of payment, for the consequences of guilt are always negative.

An Excuse Is No Solution

Guilt is always accompanied by unpleasant circumstances. We seek a solution and 'excuse' our-

selves. We seek a way out and repress the guilt; we are masters of self-justification.

Sin Must Be Brought to Light

There is only one path to freedom, both the sin and the guilt has to be brought to light; both must be confessed to Jesus by name. Jesus Christ alone can forgive the sins and free us from the burden of the guilt-then we have to no longer pay our debts to Satan.

A Small Obstacle to Deliverance

One deeply devout woman was suffering from strong suicidal thoughts and depression. Once she had had the cards Deliverance read and had also had her fortune told by the reading of her palm. She was very happy to hear that Jesus Christ could completely eliminate the burden resulting from these occult practices. She made a comprehensive confession to Jesus aloud. She surrendered her life to Jesus and renounced the pact with the Devil. Nevertheless she did not experience the deliverance longed for. What was the cause? In intensive pastoral counseling it came out that she had intentionally concealed one sin from Jesus. The woman was still not reconciled with several persons who had done her some wrong and at first had also showed no willingness to be reconciled with these persons. Putting the circumstances in order was very unpleasant for her.

A Complete Victory

Through the counseling the woman realized what a high price she had to pay for her unwillingness to seek reconciliation. On the one hand her missing reconciliation relationship separated her from Jesus and on the other hand the Devil was able to continue to demand his due, for there was still one sin that had not been confessed. After she had prayed to God for the power to forgive, she was then able to forgive them with all her heart and to be reconciled with them. She then put everything completely in order. After she had also confessed this sin to Jesus, she then experienced deliverance through Jesus.

In Every Case Your Sins Must Be Confessed

Confessing and forgiving sins delivers! Sin burdens! Have we committed a new wrong and made ourselves guilty of a sin anew, we are then in danger of the Devil again being able to demand his due. The Devil is continually lying in wait for an opportunity to attack us in order to make life difficult for us. Whenever we take the opportunity of confessing our sins aloud by name, the Devil then loses his power over our lives.

How Can You Be Certain that Your Sins Have Been Forgiven?

God's Forgiveness Is Complete

Dear reader, if you have confessed your sins to Jesus, you may be assured that your sins have been completely forgiven, no matter what kind of sin it may have been. God's forgiveness is enough to cover each and every kind of wrong.

You, too, can claim God's promises:

Each and every Sin Is Forgiven

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8-9)

Immediate Forgiveness of Sin

The forgiveness of sins to Jesus and immediately you receive forgiveness as a gift from God.

Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'" (Isaiah 1:18)

"I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist Return to me, for I have redeemed you." (Isaiah 44:22)

Jesus Christ has shed His blood so that all the guilt of sin is completely covered. There is no sin, how-

ever serious it may have been, which Jesus is not able to forgive.

Forgiveness Is a Fact

Dear reader, if you have confessed your sins to Jesus, you have then been forgiven for everything. But now you still need an assurance of forgiveness. Many are not sure whether Jesus has really forgiven their sins. Usually they say, "I do not feel anything at all. I have absolutely no feeling of forgiveness at all!" Forgiveness through Jesus Christ is a fact and this fact is independent of feelings. Let Jesus grant you the assurance of forgiveness. If you now ask Jesus for it, He will gladly give it to you. On the basis of His promises you can take God at His word and pray.

A Request for the Assurance of the Forgiveness of Your Sins

A suggested prayer:

Let Jesus Grant You the Assurance of Forgiveness

"DEAR LORD JESUS CHRIST, I have already confessed my sins to you aloud by name. I know that you have shed your blood for my sins. Your forgiveness is a fact. You have promised in Your Word, 'The blood of Jesus, His son, has made us pure from all sin.' I believe that your promise is true. I now pray that you grant me your forgiveness and the assurance of your forgiveness, because you have promised it. In faith I now thank you that you have already granted me your forgiveness and the assurance of your forgiveness. Amen."

Satan Will Be Punished for Our Sins

The Holy Spirit alone grants us the recognition of our sins and then shows us forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Satan knows only too well that at the end of time he must bear the penalty for each and every sin which we confess to Jesus. It is only all too clear that the Devil himself will never remind us of our sins. He must then reckon that we will confess our sins to

Jesus, that our sins will then be transferred to his account, thus increasing his penalty.

Satan's Tactic of Reminding

After the Holy Spirit has granted us recognition of our sins and we have confessed them to Jesus, the Devil then attempts a very subtle trick. It certainly doesn't take long for the Devil to again remind us of our former sins in order to discourage us. He knows how to masterfully dangle our former sins in front of us until we finally come around to thinking that everything has 'been in vain' after all. Again and again his 'tactic of reminding' is successful.

Satan, You are Too Late

Dear reader, whenever the Devil reminds you of those sins which Jesus has already forgiven you, then repulse God's adversary. You can pray the following:

> **"LORD JESUS CRIST I have confessed to you all of my sins which the Holy Spirit has reminded me of. DEAR LORD, you have forgiven me all of my sins. Therefore I have the assurance of your forgiveness. Satan, you have come too late! You have no right whatsoever to remind me of my sins already forgiven. I command you in the name of JESUS CHRIST, 'Be gone and leave me in peace! Amen."**

Why Does the Devil Want to Prevent Us from Confessing Our Sins?

Satan Wants to Hinder Our Confessions

God's adversary loses his power over us as soon as we have confessed our sins to Jesus aloud and in this way the 'mystery of sin' has been broken in our lives. Because he can no longer demand his due from us, he tries to hinder our confessing our sins aloud by name in any way he can. He is unwilling to allow

things to go so far so that he will lose his power over us. Here he utilizes every means at his disposal in order to prevent this.

Procrastinating

First of all, the Devil wants to prevent us from making an immediate confession of our sins. There are indeed so many reasons for postponing this unpleasant matter. Who is gladly willing to admit his mistakes? „Not today! It would be better to wait until tomorrow. I have even more time the day after tomorrow. Next weekend would suit me even better.“ We are irresolute, indecisive, in no mood and postpone it from one day to the next. After such long procrastination the confession no longer seems so important to us; finally, we are diverted and so many things come in between so that we forget our good intentions. And so in this way the Devil has achieved a great victory.

Dear reader, confess your sins quickly, best of all today Why do you want to wait any longer for your deliverance through Jesus? You can call upon God. Here is a suggested prayer:

God grants you the Time and the Energy

“ALMIGHTY GOD. 1 needs the time and energy to make a full confession of all of my sins to you. You have promised me in your Word, ‘All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.’ (Matthew 28:18) **I believe that you can give me enough time and energy to be able to completely confess all of my sins to you. Please, fulfill my request now. I thank you that you have already heard my prayer. Amen.”**

A General Confession Is Not Superfluous

The Devil wants to try to make us believe that a ‘general confession’ is not at all necessary. He uses all sorts of wild arguments; his logic is convincing--but it is in opposition to the statements in the Holy Scriptures. What are the arguments which he utilizes?

God Does Know Everything!

Suppose a certain man has read the cards. He wanted some information about the future. One day he recognizes this deed as sinful. He has offended God because he has sought out help from His adversary. The man then decides to confess this sin to Jesus by name. But the Devil comes with his argument, "You are supposed to confess to Jesus your reading of the cards as a sin by name? That is superfluous; God is omniscient! God has already known for a long time that you have read the cards. It is no longer necessary for you to confess again that to Jesus byname."

From the human point of view this logic is very plausible. God, however, sees things differently. God's Word tells us,

Sins Must Be Confessed by Name

> *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

Quite clearly we read, "If we confess our sins...," that means we must call our sins by name. There is nothing here that says that we need not confess our sins because God is omniscient. God's omniscience does not eliminate the necessity of our confessing our sins.

Dear reader, you can rejoice. Our omniscient God knows you and your situation in every detail; therefore you are in no way informing God about anything new in your confession of your sins.

God's Omniscience

> *"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar... Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord... Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. " (Psalm 139:1, 2, 4, and 6)*

Let me encourage you to accept Jesus' invitation,

Jesus Takes My Burden upon Him

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28.30)

Confessions Do Not Offend God

The Devil then tries still one more argument, "You have read the cards. You have offended God! If you have already offended God by reading the cards, and you confess it to Him, then you offend Him once more as well. You should not do that to God!" Of course, the Devil is only interested in hindering you from confessing your sins by name. God, however, sees things differently. God gives us an extremely important piece of advice,

No Concealment

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." (Proverbs 28:13)

Submitting Your Life to Jesus Is the Best Decision of Your Life

Your Empty Heart Will Be Filled

When we have confessed to Jesus Christ our sins by name, the 'mystery of sin' is then broken. Every sin confessed empties our hearts. When we have confessed all of our conscious sins, we have become completely empty. Now we are open for God, We can now invite Jesus to enter our lives.

Jesus Is the Best Lord

Dear reader, you can now make the best decision of your life. Open your life to Jesus. Surrender the control to Him. He is the best Lord! He is the Victor and will grant you 'eternal life' as well at His Second Coming. Then you may live in the presence of God

through all eternity. There you are no longer subject to

the law of death; you will live without any suffering, sorrow or sickness - and this will never end.

God's promises of this are:

Whoever Trusts Jesus Will Experience Salvation

Rejects Jesus Will Face Condemnation

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God," (John 3:16-21)

God's Invitation

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

Living with Jesus=Life; Without Jesus=Death

"...God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12)

Dear reader, you will find a suggested prayer for a **'prayer of surrender' pp. 191-192** in the next chapter, **"The Path to Freedom", pp. 184, ff.**

The Decision for Jesus Is Always Gain

The decision for Jesus Christ is always the best decision in life, even if you have never claimed the Devil's assistance and therefore have no price to pay for his services. The surrender of your life to Jesus will bring happiness into your present life and still last into eternity, for it assures you of eternal life, Dear reader, let me encourage you to a conscious decision for Jesus today; carry out a surrender of your life to Him. He will not disappoint you. Jesus loves you!

Breaking the Contract

The Contract with the Devil Must Be Broken

If we have once made use of even only one of the services from the Devil's 'sample collection,' and have once claimed his assistance, an invisible but nonetheless effective contract exists between us and God's adversary. The Devil, as our partner, has only one goal, namely 'human bankruptcy.'

Jesus Christ, on the other hand, is the best of partners:

Jesus Is the Best of Partners

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10)

Dear reader, break your 'contract with the Devil' today. You will find a suggested prayer for a 'general renunciation' and a **'prayer of renunciation' pp.192-194** from burdens arising from your ancestors in the last chapter, **"The Path to Freedom", pp.184, ff.**

Why Do All Occult Objects Have to Be Destroyed?

Flanks Bared to the Devil's Attacks

Occult objects bare your flanks to the attacks of the Devil at any time. Deprive the Devil of every opportunity to launch his attacks and to find a breach in your defenses. It is absolutely necessary to destroy all of the occult objects.

The reaction of the Christians in Ephesus should serve as an example to us. According to the Bible,

> *"Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas." (Acts 19:18. 19)*

A list of occult objects should serve to give us a survey and serve as a point of reference:

Destroy All Occult Objects

Occult and spiritualism literature, devilish books of magic such as the 'Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses' among others, dream books, occult illustrations and pictures, letters of protection, Heavenly insurance, occult fire insurance, chain letters, blood contracts (with the Devil), horoscopes, playing cards, psychographs (Ouija-boards), crystal balls, pendulums, and divining rods, amulets and talisman, protective symbols-every kind of object which could be used occult practices.. Look through all of your cupboards and destroy all of these things. Separate yourself from all those persons dealing in occult practices. Avoid any and all kinds of occult and spiritualism contacts.

How Can You Put a Personal relationship with God into Daily Practice?

Communication Is Important

When Jesus Christ has become our 'partner', our lives will then be changed fundamentally and positively. How do partners associate with one another? They talk with one another, make plans together, inform one another and remain in constant contact with one another. We would be superficial partners, if we only gave Jesus our 'I do!' and then did not want to have anything more to do with Him afterwards.

Dear reader, keep in contact with Jesus daily.

Help through the **ABC**s of Every-day Life:

The Christian ABC's

A. **Absorb** the Word of God every day.

B. **Believe and Pray**
Believe God's promises and take the time daily to converse with God.

C. **Cultivate** Christian fellowship
Seek out and cultivate Christian fellowship with fellow believers.

Reading the Bible, Prayer and Christian Fellowship Are Vital.

Read the Bible Everyday

Let me encourage you to take the time daily to read a section in the Bible. Through the statements in the Bible you will get to know God and His offer of help much better. God will show you what is pleasing to Him and what sin is. You will get to know Jesus, who has died for your sins. Jesus will become your best example. Your will receive practical instruction for life and will adopt God's thoughts which will give you divine impulses. Your life will be changed for the good. There is absolutely no substitute for daily Bible study

.If you want to read a section in the Bible, the

Word of God daily, there are several possibilities available to you:

The Bible in Modern English

You could read a modern Bible translation which brings the Word of God to you in modern, present-day English. This Bible edition is of great help, if you do not yet have any experience with Biblical statements and you want to become acquainted with the Biblical terminology in modern language.

Title: "The Good News for Modern Man," The Bible in Modern English, The International Bible Society. It is a cooperative translation of the several member-organizations of the International Bible Society.

The "Quiet Time Bible"

Or the "The NIV QUIET TIME BIBLE. Each reading section has an introduction. There are questions to the text and helpful thoughts that reach your heart and suggestions for your personal prayer. You will gain much for your personal life if you read this bible every day. It is printed by the Intervarsity Press.

Through the Bible In 365 Days

If you are interested in reading through the whole Bible once, there is a Bible which contains a section out of the Old Testament, a section out of the New Testament and also a section from the Psalms and Proverbs for each day of the year and it is arranged according to the days of the calendar. You can start reading on any day of the year you want to and within one year you will have read the entire Bible:

The Bible Year

Title: "The Bible-Year - Through the Holy Scriptures in 365 Days". The International Bible Society".. All of these Bibles are available in any bookstore or can be ordered there.

Pray Daily

Dear reader let me encourage you to pray daily! Talk with Jesus as with your best friend. Tell Him everything that is in your heart. Jesus always has time

for you; take time for Him daily and talk with Him.

Here is a suggestion for a short prayer:

A Short Prayer

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, show me who I am and then show me what help you can grant me. Grant me your victory today. Strengthen my trust in you. I thank you for your manifest support and for your love. Amen."

Christian Fellowship Is important

Dear reader, Christian fellowship with born-again Christians is vital for life. Whenever you need any help and support as a disciple of Christ, you will readily find it with the Disciples of Christ. If the Devil succeeds in isolating you, you will experience defeat. Join a Bible-oriented home-circle or a Bible-oriented congregation (church). Here you will receive the necessary spiritual counseling and support which you will still have need of over a certain period of time. In a home-circle you will be able to freely express your deepest needs in an atmosphere of trust and you will receive encouragement, support in prayer and practical help from experienced, faithful Christians. If you cannot call on the name of Jesus because of occult burden, seek out for help in a Christian prayer-circle.

Some Answers to Some Important Questions:

Is it enough if I give up my occult practices and no longer claim the Devil's assistance?

The Devil Does Not Give up So Easily

If we turn away from the Devil, this means in no way that the Devil will turn his back on us because of this. Even if God's adversary still has the slightest reason, he will continue to demand his price in our lives. Only deliverance through Jesus can abolish the 'Devil's due.' If we want to become really

free, we need to choose **'The Path to Freedom', pp.184 ff.**

Are not the occult practices also forgiven by Jesus Christ with the 'new-birth'?

Sins Are Not Written off Automatically

Jesus Christ has completely forgiven the sins of everybody committed before and after his death on the cross. The Son of God does not need to continually die again and again in order to grant the forgiveness of sin. Sins are, however, not forgiven automatically. Only when we have confessed our sins to Jesus Christ, that means, by name and aloud, can we consciously place ourselves under His divine forgiveness.

Looking at Sin Through The Eyes of Jesus

It is shocking and at the same time healthy for us to see our sins through the eyes of Jesus, for it is our sins which have cost Him His life. Jesus expects us to put things right if we realize that we did wrong and if other persons were affected by it. Let me repeat: Sins are not forgiven automatically. We must confess our sins to Jesus Christ and put in order all of the wrongs committed by us. That is a hard path to take, but God will give us His strength for it. We may also lay claim to His strength in these situations.

I must still suffer under Satan's demand of his due even as a reborn Christian; does that also mean that I will then lose eternal life?

The statement in the Bible is clear and unambiguous:

Take Your Stand for Jesus: You Will Then Have Eternal Life

> *"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:12)*

When we have surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ, we have then become the children of

God.

> *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)*

As the children of God we will receive 'eternal life' if we remain faithful to Jesus all of our lives. That is something which the Devil cannot hinder.

A Life-long Battle Is Not Necessary

Of course the Devil can make life difficult even for reborn Christians as well. He may succeed in bringing us battle-weary into our graves, but 'eternal life' is a gift from God which the Devil cannot contest our right to. Whoever chooses to take **"The Path to Freedom," pp. 184 ff.** will experience deliverance and can happily continue on his path through life without any burden from the Devil. Whether we take **"The Path to Freedom"** before or after our rebirth, we can become free. The only distinction is the sooner I let Jesus deliver me, the less the Devil can demand of his due from me in my life.

If I have no information about it, what research is necessary in order to find out if my ancestors have engaged in any occult practices?

Sin-Burden Still from the Ancestors?

The ancestors coming into play here go back to the great-grandparents. Very few people are in a position to establish with any certainty what occult practices their ancestors may have been engaged in.

In Any Case Break the Contract

Should there have been any occult practices from your ancestors; the pact which the ancestors had made with the Devil should be renounced in any case. Whoever chooses **"The Path to Freedom", pp. 184 ff.** here as well, will be delivered from all burdens.

Play It Safe

One devout man told me, "I cannot find out what my ancestors may have practiced. Nevertheless I am burdened and want to become free. I want to play it

safe. I will take the 'path to freedom' and pray all of the suggested prayers there aloud. I want Jesus Christ to be the Victor in my life, and I will do everything within my power to break the Devil's power in my life. After all the entire path to freedom will cost me nothing. I am so happy that God's forgiveness and help is free of charge and I am thankful to God for His help." As with so many others, God has granted this man complete deliverance, too.

What must I do, if I should back-slide?

Confess Any New Sins

Should you remember any sins which you have never confessed to Jesus aloud, or should there be any sins which you have committed in the meantime, these new sins must also be confessed to Jesus by name. The Devil immediately asserts his Prayer of claim here and again attempts to demand his due. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to say the prayer of renunciation anew.

Satan Is Powerful, but Jesus Is More Powerful

Satan is powerful, but Jesus Christ is even more powerful. Jesus is the Victor. Dear reader, when you take your stand on the side of Jesus, you are then on the side of the Victor.

Protective Magic and Its Consequences

As a child, a certain devout woman in the Bavarian Woods was drawn through the roots of a tree by her mother. This defensive and protective magic was supposed to guard against evil influences. She, too, had also claimed the help of the Devil several times without thinking much about it or suspecting anything evil in it. The consequences were that she was terribly tormented and the Devil was making life difficult for her with his demands.

I Want to Be Free at Last!

She attended my lecture on this subject, and afterwards she came up to me and said, "I would like to

take this path to freedom. I would like to make a general confession to Jesus and I will confess all of my sins to Him. I want to become free at last! The Devil has been tormenting me long enough." On the very same day the woman confessed all of her sins to Jesus.

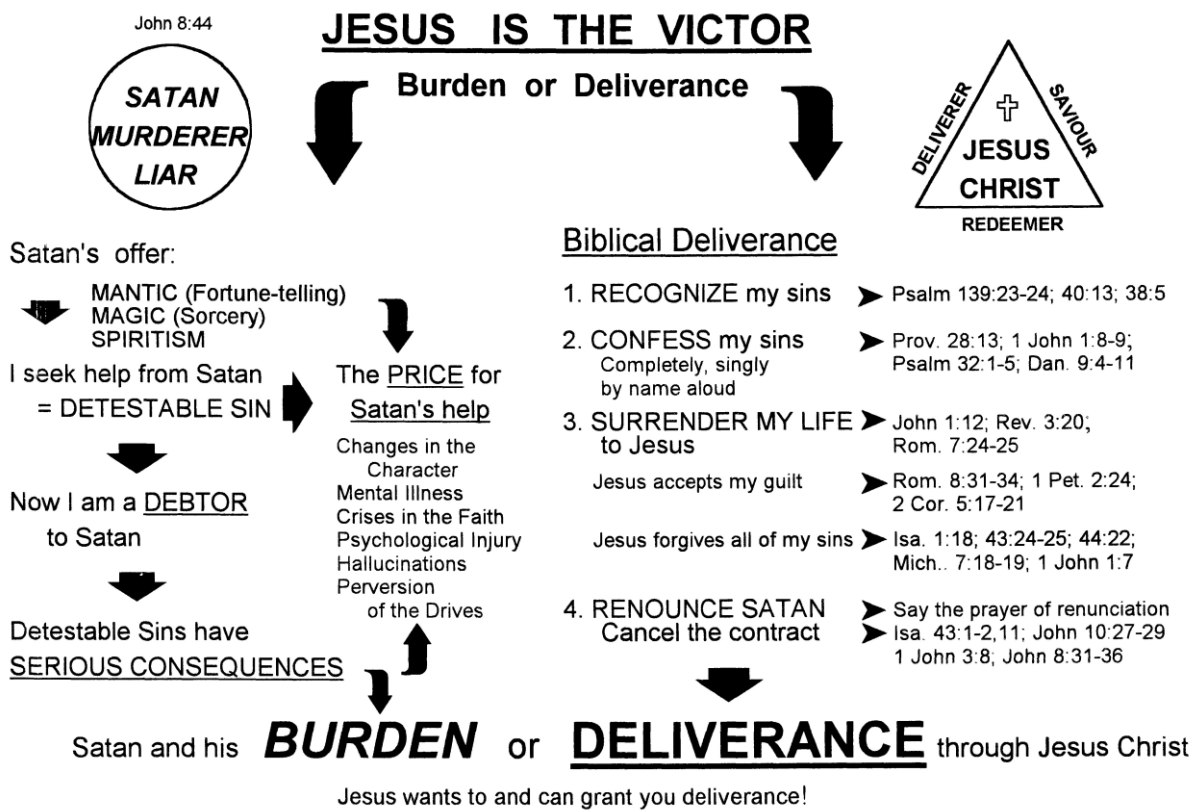
To do this she went into the woods, kneeled down under the trees and confessed all of her sins to Jesus by name. Finally, she said the prayer of renunciation and surrendered her life to Jesus.

A Positive Change In Life

Later I received a letter from her. She described how a great change for the good had taken place in her life. As she experienced the deliverance through Jesus, she was already over 70 years old. She regretted that she had to first become so old in order to find the path to freedom at last. She regretted all those years of her life filled with hardship and burdens. She was full of gratitude that she had found deliverance through Jesus Christ at last. She was extremely happy for the new life which had just started for her.

You Can Become Free Even Today!

Dear reader, if you are still young, you can nevertheless become free today, if you have already reached middle age or you are already numbered among the senior citizens, it is not yet too late. I pray that you may accept God's offer today. Jesus is waiting for you! Jesus loves you! Jesus will help you! He can help you immediately! What are you still waiting for?


John 8:44
SATAN
MURDERER
LIAR
JESUS IS THE VICTOR
Burden or Deliverance
DELIVERER
SAVIOUR
JESUS
CHRIST
REDEEMER
Satan's offer:
MANTIC (Fortune-telling)
MAGIC (Sorcery)
SPIRITISM
I seek help from Satan
= DETESTABLE SIN
The PRICE for
Satan's help
Changes in the Character
Mental Illness
Crises in the Faith
Psychological Injury
Hallucinations
Perversion of the Drives
Now I am a DEBTOR to Satan
Detestable Sins have
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
Biblical Deliverance
1. RECOGNIZE my sins
Psalm 139:23-24; 40:13; 38:5
2. CONFESS my sins
Completely, singly by name aloud
Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 32:1-5; Dan. 9:4-11
3. SURRENDER MY LIFE to Jesus
John 1:12; Rev. 3:20; Rom. 7:24-25
Jesus accepts my guilt
Rom. 8:31-34; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:17-21
Jesus forgives all of my sins
Isa. 1:18; 43:24-25; 44:22; Mich.. 7:18-19; 1 John 1:7
4. RENOUNCE SATAN
Cancel the contract
Say the prayer of renunciation
Isa. 43:1-2,11; John 10:27-29
1 John 3:8; John 8:31-36
Satan and his BURDEN or DELIVERANCE through Jesus Christ
Jesus wants to and can grant you deliverance!

The Path to Freedom

How can I become free from all burdens?

'GOOD NEWS'—Vital facts:

Deliverance through JESUS CHRIST: JESUS IS THE VICTOR!

JESUS loves me!

JESUS hates my sin.

JESUS has paid the price for my sin with His life.

JESUS has achieved complete forgiveness for all of our sins through His death. (Ephesians 1:7-8)

JESUS offers His complete forgiveness as a gift to each and every human being. (Romans 3:23-24)

JESUS does not forgive automatically. I must personally accept this forgiveness.

I. Why is the confession of sins by name so important?

Through my confession of sins by name to Jesus I express:

1. My knowledge:

God is holy.

No sin can exist in His presence.

Sin separates me from God and my fellow-men.

Sin is 'treason.'

Sin is rebellion against God.

2. My knowledge of myself:

I have done wrong.

I am a sinner.

My sins separate me from God.

My sins are no 'trifle.'

I also share the guilt for Jesus' death.

I now see my sins through the eyes of Jesus.

I cannot discuss my sins away.

I cannot free myself from my sins.

As a sinner I deserve death. (Romans 6:23)

I am under the sentence of death.

Only Jesus can save me from the penalty of death.

3. My readiness – what I can do:

As a sinner I can come to Jesus now.

I can tell Jesus my sins.

Through the confession of my sins by name I can lay them down at Jesus' feet where they are better taken care of than in my heart.

4. My confession:

Every sin wants to remain hidden.

Every sin forms a 'mystery of sin' in my life.

Through the confessing of my sins by name and aloud the mystery of sin is broken. (Proverbs 28:13)

My confession of my sin by name is my of reporting the damage that sin has inflicted on me.

If I have had the courage to commit sins, I must also have the courage to confess my sins.

5. My admission:

Through the confession of my sins by name I myself tear off the mask from my face.

I can no longer assert to Jesus and others, "I am a respectable person!"

6. My decision:

Through His life and through His death on the cross Jesus has accomplished the perfect achievement.

Through my own achievements I cannot earn forgiveness and redemption.

I am willing to give up my faulty and imperfect principle of achievement.

Jesus' forgiveness is a gift.

I accept this gift of forgiveness from Jesus.

Through the confession of my sins by name I consciously put myself under the forgiveness already achieved by Christ.

7. My thanks:

"Through Jesus' death on the cross and His blood shed there for me, all of my sins of the past, present and future have also been fully forgiven." (1 John 2:1-2, 12)

The forgiveness achieved through Jesus' blood and His death on the cross is a fact, no matter whether I feel it at all or not.

II. How you can put the confession of sins by name into practice:

Open your Bible and read the **"Ten Commandments",** Exodus20:1 – 17, **pp. 259.260.**:

Take out a piece of paper and a pen.

Ask God to show you how you have transgressed each Commandment.

Write down every sin which the Holy Spirit reminds you of.

Don't try to discover sins by straining yourself.

A sin that you have already confessed to Jesus by name aloud in the past need not be confessed again.

If you have hurt or sinned against someone, or you need to put something right, you should confess your sin to others only so far as it is known to them. Your sins are of no concern to others.

Ask God for the strength to be able to put things right where it is necessary to do so. (Ezekiel 33: 4-16)

Put everything right with others and be reconciled with them as soon as you have the opportunity.

In any case, first confess your sins by name aloud. Ask God to give you the strength to do this. Confess every sin singly and aloud.

After you have named all of your conscious sins to Jesus singly and aloud, write at the top of the paper: "Jesus has forgiven all of my sins. Thank you, Lord!"

Then destroy this paper; your sins are of no concern to anyone else.

If you or any of your ancestors have committed a 'detestable sin' (Deuteronomy 18:9-14), whether consciously or unconsciously, then pray a prayer of renunciation.

Below you will find several examples of prayers for various situations.

If you later remember a sin that you have not confessed by name, or if you have committed another sin, confess that sin by name at once.

III. The GOOD NEWS

JESUS CHRIST wants to and can destroy the power of Satan in every person's life whosoever is willing to practice the following three important steps:

1. **Make a complete confession to Jesus of every sin known in your life. Confess your sins singly by name and confess them aloud.**
2. **Entrust your life to Jesus and make a complete surrender; then you are a child of God.** (John 1:12) **Jesus Christ wants to be the only Lord in your life. Jesus Christ is the best Lord.**
3. **As a child of God, renounce the contract with the Devil in the name of Jesus.**

Rejoice!

JESUS loves you!

Jesus has won the victory over sin and Satan through His death on the cross and through His resurrection.

JESUS loves you!

Jesus is the Victor. As the Almighty Victor He wants to grant you the victory He has promised and which you need in your every-day life.

JESUS loves you!

Jesus wants to grant you a new life. Jesus wants to grant you this new life through His divine power. With this divine power you will be able to lead a victorious and obedient life.

Help through the ABCs of Every-day Life:

A. Absorb - the Word of God every day.

Take the time daily to read the Bible. Jesus has a lot to tell you in His love-letter, the Bible.

B. Believe and Pray.

Take the time daily to converse with God. Talk with Jesus as with your best friend. Tell Him all of your heart's desires.

C. Cultivate - Christian fellowship.

Seek out and cultivate fellowship with fellow-believers. Spiritual support and counseling are very important for you. Join a Bible-oriented home-circle or a Bible-oriented congregation (church).

IV. Suggested prayers for various concerns

1. A prayer for the confession of sin

Open your bible and read the following texts:

1 John 1:7, 9; Psalm 32; Psalm 90:8; Psalm 51; Proverbs 28:13

Confess to Jesus every conscious sin of your life by name singly and aloud. When you have confessed all of your sins to Jesus, you can then pray aloud:

A suggested prayer:

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, I have confessed to you all of my sins by name. I have also confessed to you all of my occult sins by name; they are detestable in your sight. You have died for all of these sins. I thank you for forgiveness and purification through your blood. Grant me the assurance that you have completely forgiven all of my sins through your blood. You have promised in your Word, '...and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:7, 9)

I believe your promise to be true. I believe that You, LORD JESUS, can grant me the assurance of forgiveness and I thank you that you have already granted me this assurance of forgiveness.

Grant me the joy of recognizing and living out your will every day so that I may honor you through my conduct in life. You have promised me in your Word, '…for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.' (Philippians 2:13**) I believe that you can grant me to will and to act and also the joy of a life according to your will. Realize your promise in my life, too. In faith I thank you that you have already heard my prayer.**

Show me the unconscious sins in my life, too. Grant me a deeper knowledge of sin and of myself and a finely-honed conscience before you

and my fellow-men. You have promised us in your Word, 'But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.' (John 16:13**) I believe that your Holy Spirit can open my eyes to see myself and that I will thus receive a greater understanding of sin and about myself, as well as a finely-honed conscience. Please make this a reality in my life. In faith I thank you that you have already answered my request.**

In the name of JESUS CHRIST I now renounce all the powers of impurity and each and every bad habit; I renounce the power of murder (abortion, as well), the power of violence, the power of lies (perjury, as well), and all the powers behind card-playing and other game addictions.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, You have promised us in your Word, The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work. (1 John 3:8) **I pray you to close the entry gate to my life of each and every demon which has come about through my behavior. Close Satan's entry gate in my life for ever. Remove the power of the Devil in my life and destroy his works in me. LORD JESUS CHRIST, you are the Son of God, and I believe that you have the power to close the Devil's entry gate into my life and to destroy his works in me. I thank you that you are now the Victor in my life and that the Devil no longer has any power over my life. Amen."**

2. A prayer of surrender

A suggested prayer:

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, I confess to you that I am a sinner. As a sinner, I have earned the penalty of eternal death. In your great love you have already paid the penalty for my sins with your blood. In my place you have given your life for me. Through your vicarious death you have reconciled me with God. I thank you for your great love. I thank you for this wonderful gift.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, up to this day I have been my own lord, but from now on you are to be the Lord of my life. I want to serve you and to follow you. I surrender to you my mind, my will, my feelings, my body, my talents, my time, my money, my future and my life.

I place everything into your hands, I pray you to utilize everything to your honor and as a blessing for my fellow-men. Make the best use of everything according to your divine pleasure and ways.

You have said 'But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be, given to you as well.' (Matthew 6:33) **I believe this, your pledge. You will keep it. In faith I thank you that you have kept your promise in my life.**

I want to be your child and I want to belong to you. You have promised us in your Word, 'Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God.' (John 1:13) **I believe that through this surrender I will become your child and in faith I thank you that I have now become**

your child. Amen."

3. A prayer of general renunciation

Open your Bible and read the following texts: Luke 1:68, 74, 75; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1: 13-14; Acts 26:17-18; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 3:8.

A suggested prayer:

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, I now place myself under your precious blood and under your divine protection. LORD JESUS CHRIST, in your name I now renounce the Devil and all of his dark works, his evil nature and his demonic powers. I want to have nothing more to do with the dark and demonic powers of the Devil. Should there be any spell or curse on me because I have been cursed at one time or another, then please, LORD JESUS CHRIST, as the Son of God, break this spell or curse in my life. Take away all of Satan's claims to my life.

Please purify and protect this house, the entire home and each and every room through your blood. Command all of the powers of darkness to forsake this place (yard, house, rooms, etc.) and to go where you have delegated them.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, prevent the powers of darkness from returning again. LORD JESUS, fill this house (room, etc.) with your holy presence and be the Lord and Ruler alone. Protect me on every side with your strong hand day and night.

You have promised us in your Word, 'All au-

thority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.' (Matthew 28:18)

I believe that you are almighty. I believe that you have the authority to command the Devil. You alone can banish him from my life and prevent him from re-entering. I thank you that this has now become a reality in me.

You have also given us another promise, 'The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work.' (1 John 3:8)

LORD JESUS CHRIST, I trust that you can do that in my life, as well Grant me this promised blessing and become the Victor in my life. In faith I thank you that you have already destroyed the works of the Devil in my life.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, I surrender to you my life with everything that I am and what I have. I want to be your child of God for ever and ever. You alone are to be the LORD of my life. I thank you that your victorious control of my life will accompany me. Amen."

4. A prayer of renunciation of burden from the ancestors

One very important fact:

If one of your ancestors, reaching back to the great-grandparents, has committed a detestable sin (Deut. 18:9-14) and practiced anything belonging to the realm of the occult, and the help of the Devil has been called upon then a pact has been concluded with the Devil. Everyone who has called upon the Devil for 'help' must pay Satan his price. In addition the Devil now has a pretext to demand his price from the descendants into the fourth generation and to inflict injury

on them as well.

There is a great probability that the Devil can demand an injurious price in your life, too, because one

of your ancestors, going back into the fourth generation may possibly have once called upon the Devil for help. Your ancestors reaching back into the fourth generation make up 14 persons in all. Can you safely assert that none of your ancestors has committed a detestable sin?

If only one of your 14 ancestors has committed a single detestable sin that can possibly be the reason why the Devil is still making life difficult for you and you are suffering under a 'burden.'

The GOOD NEWS:

God has limited the Devil's possibility of demanding his due from the great-grandchildren. (Numbers 14:17, 18) Jesus can grant you freedom, even if you are not aware of any single detestable sin committed by your ancestors. You can call upon Jesus' help in prayer. In your prayer you can lay claim to Jesus' promise, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36) JESUS CHRIST wants to grant you complete freedom and cancel the Devil's due in your life.

Suggested prayer:

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, in your name I renounce each and every dark power which may have received control over me through my parents or ancestors. If my parents or ancestors have claimed the help of the Devil through detestable sins (Deut. 18:9-14**) and so have concluded a pact with the Devil, consciously or unconsciously, then I now renounce this pact.**

In case any demons or unclean spirits have any power over me and are oppressing me, then, LORD JESUS CHRIST, remove this power of the Devil over me. Command them, LORD JESUS CHRIST, to leave me and to go where you would have them go so that they may never return to me again.

You have promised me, 'All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.' (Matthew 28:18) **'The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work'** (1 John 3:8) **'So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'** (John 8:36) **LORD JESUS, I believe your promises. You alone are almighty. you alone can destroy the works of the Devil. You alone can achieve freedom from the demons and unclean spirits. Free me from them, LORD JESUS, and protect me from them. I thank you that you have disarmed and conquered all of the powers of darkness and the dominion of the Devil. I thank you that you have now become the Victor in my life, too.**

LORD JESUS CHRIST, I want to surrender myself and my life to you. Become the LORD in my life. I want to become your child of God for ever and ever. You have given me a promise, 'Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.' (John 1:12)

I believe your promise: I can become your child if I believe in you, if I grant you my trust and if I accept you into my life. I want to become your child. In faith I thank you that I have now become your child of God. I thank you that my life *is fully secured in your loving* hands.

Amen."

5. A prayer of renunciation of sins and connections with the realm of the occult:

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, I now confess my sins to you (name each and every conscious sin by name singly and aloud!).

In the name of JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, now renounce all the powers of darkness and sins in the realm of superstition, of sorcery, of magic, of fortune-telling, of spiritualism, and of the worship of Satan with which I have had anything to do with at all, whether consciously or unconsciously. I am very sorry that I have offended you with them. I pray you to forgive me these sins.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, for the sake of your blood shed for me, I pray you to set me completely free from the bonds and ties to superstition, occultism, spiritualism, Satanism and all of their consequences. Should there be any spiritualism or other mediums of darkness wanting to exercise influence over me, directly or indirectly, I then ask You, LORD JESUS CHRIST, to ban each and every power of darkness from my life which may be taking advantage of me. Command the powers of darkness to let go of me, to let me go free and to no longer torment me.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, I would like to place myself under your precious blood. Protect me on every side with your strong hand day and night. I rejoice in your promise, ''The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to

it and are safe." (Proverbs 18:10)

I believe that you are my fortress and refuge; I believe that you can protect me. (Read Psalm 18:2-4; Psalm 91) **I thank you that you are my shelter and help.**

I thank you for your promise, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil's work." (1 John 3:8) I believe that you can realize that in my life, too. I thank you that the destruction of the Devil's works through your omnipotence and love has now become a fact in my life. I thank you for your victory on the cross. (John 19:30)

LORD JESUS CHRIST, I want to surrender myself and my life to you together with everything I am and possess, and I want to become your child of God for ever and ever. And I thank you that I am now God's child. Amen."

V. JESUS CHRIST is the GLORIOUS VICTOR

1. "He who has the son has eternal life"

A very important question:

Why does occult burden still continue to appear even after the rebirth and the baptism of Faith?

Many people suffering under occult burden cannot understand that the surrender of their lives to Jesus and the baptism of Faith have not put an end to their burden. "Why have we not become free? Why am I still being tormented?" are the questions which come up. Indeed those are important and justifiable questions.

Many of these tormented Christians are ashamed to talk about their distress. They begin to doubt God's

love. They come to the conclusion: God has not really accepted me; to God I am only a second-class child of God. However there is an answer to these justifiable questions.

An important state of affairs:

An illustration will serve to show what the state of affairs is:

A certain working woman wants to buy a used car. She applies to her bank for a credit of 10,000 $. The monthly payments, including the interest, are agreed

upon. She then buys her car with the money and punctually makes the monthly payments to her bank. Some time later the woman becomes acquainted with a young man. They get married. The woman changes her family name to that of her husband and also changes her place of residence. Up to the time of her wedding she has paid some 5,000 $ back to her bank. The woman has gotten married, she has changed her name and she has changed her address. The circumstances have changed. For these reasons, however, the bank would hardly be willing to forego the payment of the sum remaining. A credit contract has been drawn up. The bank, as creditor, still expects the conditions to be fulfilled as before. The woman still owes the bank the remaining sum. The bank, as well, will still insist on the monthly payment of the remaining sum until the entire sum, including the interest, has been paid back. Only when the last payment has been made will the contract have expired. If her husband pays back the remainder of the sum which his wife still owes to the bank, then the bank can no longer demand anything more. The contract has been fulfilled.

Dear reader, if you or any of your ancestors have

accepted the Devil's help at any time, a contract has been drawn up with the Devil and the Devil has the right to demand his due.

When you have become a Christian, when you have given your consent to Jesus, when you have been baptized, then you have become a child of God--but that alone has not yet annulled the contract with the Devil. We still remain in Satan's debt.

If you remain faithful to Jesus your life long, Jesus will grant eternal life to you, as a child of God. The Devil cannot change this fact - but he will certainly try to make life difficult for you, especially as a child of God. He will still demand his due from you even as before. It is highly possible that you will finally drop into your grave, weary of battle.

Only when you have consciously practiced the three important steps in your life, will Satan have then lost control over your life. You must consequently follow the path to freedom with Jesus.

You, too, can experience a complete victory of deliverance through Jesus.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE GLORIOUS VICTOR!

2. The complete victory of deliverance

There are many people, young and old, in all levels of society, who have to pay the Devil his due. They are longing for help and deliverance, but they do not know how they can receive help or from whom.

Many have read the 'GOOD NEWS' of deliverance through JESUS CHRIST, however, not all of them who have read it have taken the three steps to deliverance, but all of those who have practiced the three steps to deliverance have experienced a complete victory of

deliverance through Jesus Christ.

Dear reader, JESUS wants to and can also be the Victor in your life today. Jesus has said:

> *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* (John 10:10)

Jesus is offering you the genuine fulfillment of life. That is the essence of a life worth living. Jesus has already paid the price for this gift with His own life, thus proving His great love for you.

You have now read this important 'GOOD NEWS' in these few pages. Select that suggested prayer which is most suitable for your situation. If you are nevertheless convinced that it would be advantageous for you and you would like to take the safest way in every situation, then you can also pray all of the suggested prayers.

3. The three important steps:

A. Confess to Jesus all of your consciously known sins in a complete and comprehensive confession.

Confess your sins singly and aloud.

B. Surrender your life fully.

Surrender your life to Jesus, and then you have become a true child of God. JESUS CHRIST wants to become the only Lord in your life. Jesus is the best Lord, your best friend. There is no better Lord and friend. Jesus has deserved your complete trust. He will not disappoint you.

C. As a child of God, renounces your pact with the Devil.

In the name of Christ inform the Devil of your final renunciation. Pray the prayer of renunciation. If you take the path to freedom with Jesus right now, Jesus will grant you the victory **right now.**

My prayers also accompany this 'GOOD NEWS.'

Dear reader, I thank God that He has granted you deliverance and the victory in your life, too.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE GLORIOUS VICTOR!

Appendix 1: The Devil: His Origin, His Intentions and His Fate

In the enlightened world of the Twentieth Century most people are of the opinion that the existence of a Devil belongs in the realm of fairy tales or is ranked to a primitive form of superstition. When we imagine him to be a terrifying figure with a red face, horns, black hair, a long tail and hoofs, then we are imagining him in the thinking of the "Dark Middle Ages." The idea of the existence of the Devil as a person seems to be absolutely absurd and unrealistic.

At the end of the Second World War the well-known Professor of Theology, D. Dr. Helmut Thielicke, the former Chancellor of the University of Hamburg, stated:

> *"Too often in our times have we come into contact with demonic powers, too clearly have we felt and seen how peoples and whole movements have been deceived and mislead by mysterious, abysmal powers, ...all too often have we observed how a strange spirit has taken possession of many people and has been able to so substantially transform them that they have been enabled to commit atrocities, have been intoxicated with power and have burst into fits of raving madness which they had never before seemed capable of; furthermore, from year to year have we seen how a poisonous atmosphere has engulfed our globe, have really felt something perceptible of the evil spirits in the air, and have seen how an unseen hand has been passing an unseen cup of delirium from nation to nation and has been*

confusing the nations profoundly; let me repeat: much too often have we seen of all that, much too much have we been terrified by all of that, so that I must first prepare my mind as well as your minds so that we, without becoming embarrassed, could even dare to ask the question about a Devil at all... So then let us leave the question open as to whether there is a Devil or not and let us rather ask who he is in order to then compare his Biblical portrayal with that which we will encounter in apocalyptical times." (1)

The Devil's "Wanted"-poster

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has given us a "wanted"-poster of the Devil: "You belong to your father, the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

Three Personal Characteristics of the Devil

1. The Greek word for devil is 'diabolos' and means: devil, slanderer and adversary.

The verb 'diaballo' means: to suddenly separate, to reproach, to slander, to pretend, to condemn, portraying falsely, to deceive. (2)

With these definitions Jesus appropriately describes the characteristics and behavior of a Devil who really exists.

2. "He was a murderer from the beginning."

The Devil has as his target human life. He does not even shrink from committing murder.

3. "He is a liar and the father of lies."

> The Devil twists the truth; he turns the truth upside-down and boldly asserts the opposite.

Cardinal Joseph Hoeffner has stated: "Today some theologians assert that the Devil is a symbol, not a person. 'In all of the texts of the New Testament in which 'Satan' or 'Devil' occur you could just as easily replace them with 'sin' or 'evil.'' This is not the case. In the Holy Scriptures we can read, *'He who does what is sinful is of the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning' (1 John 3:8)*, however only a personal being, gifted with brain and mind by its own, can commit sin, but not 'the evil.' (3)

Jesus Christ's statements are clear and evident. The Devil is a personal being.

Where Did the Devil Come from?

Astonishingly enough the Devil has come from Heaven, the realm, invisible to us, where God dwells. Jesus Christ imparted to us,

"I saw Satan (diabolos) fall like lightning from Heaven." (Luke 10:18)

Commissioned by God, the prophet Ezekiel has described the Devil's fall in the figure of the King of Tyre:

> *"Son of man, take up a lament concerning the King of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God: every precious stone adorned you... on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the Holy Mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in*

your ways from the day you were created

till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the Earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings." (Ezekiel 28:12-17)

God Created a Complete, Personal Being

The prophet Isaiah reports,

"How you have fallen from Heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!" (Isaiah 14:12)

For the word 'morning star' the Latin Translation of the Bible (Vulgate) uses the designation 'Lucifer,' e.g. 'Light-bearer.' The designation 'Lucifer' is a suitable description for that person who occupied a privileged position next to the Throne of God and only after Jesus Christ Himself in rank.

Important Information about Lucifer

Lucifer is a personality, created by God.

"On the day you were created." (Ezekiel 28:13)

Lucifer's place of abode was the Garden of Eden.

"You were in Eden, the Garden of God." (Verse 13)

Lucifer was a highly intelligent being of perfect beauty.

"You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty." (Verse 12)

Cherubic angels perform their duties around the Throne

of God in the presence of God Himself.

> *"You were anointed as a guardian cherub."(Verse 14)*

God created a glorious angel (Lucifer=Light-bearer) as a sinless being. God did not create a Devil.

> *"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created..." (Verse 15)*

But a perfect, blameless Lucifer became a rebel, a diabolos, a 'bringer of confusion.'

> *"...till wickedness was found in you." (Verse 15)*

God did not Create a Devil

In His love God created living beings with the freedom of choice; in this the Creator was taking a great risk. This presupposed the possibility that at any time one of these living beings could also decide against God as well. In Heaven there was absolutely no reason to sin; there was, however, the opportunity to sin. How a sinless Lucifer became the originator of sin remains a 'mystery of sin' to this day. God did not create a Devil. In no way can God be made responsible for the existence of the Devil.

Two examples should make that clear:

Famous architects and builders have drawn up and built beautiful cathedrals and splendid palaces. In the bombing of the cities during the war these unique monuments were reduced to rubble. The architects and builders arduously realized their well-thought-out plans. Of course it was never their wish that their life's works should be destroyed. The events in the war were outside of their spheres of influence. In no way are the architects and builders responsible for the destruction in the

war.

A healthy boy is born. The happy parents spare no effort to ensure their son the best education. They want to protect him from negative influences. Grown up, he falls into bad company, goes astray, becomes a criminal and even commits murder. It would be absurd to blame the parents, "You have brought a murderer into the world!" The circumstances appear to be quite different: Through adverse circumstances an innocent youth has become a murderer in his later years. The parents are in no way to blame.

Let us sum up once more: God created Lucifer as a glorious, perfect being. Making his own choice, sinless Lucifer decided to become an adversary, a rebel, the originator of sin. God cannot be called into account for this.

The cause of Lucifer's fall was his pride and his presumption.

> *"Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor." (Verse 16)*

The "Mystery of Evil"

A puzzling development: Good and evil in one person. Lucifer is a typical example of a split personality. "Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned." (Verse 16)

The atrocities and crimes in the Second World War, the concentration camps, the planned extermination of whole groups of peoples, the execution of innocent people by men who, in civilian life, were good family fathers and esteemed citizens-these are the inexplicable depths of human behavior.

Good and evil in one person, were they only regrettable, chance events in the past?

It is shocking, but we are again experiencing the same situation today. In Bosnia-Herzegovina Croats, Moslems and Serbs had been living together as good neighbors as long as anyone can remember. According to descent, they belonged to various peoples and cultures; nevertheless they were living in peace celebrating the traditional holidays, carefree and light-hearted. They were acquainted with each other from birth and were willing to help one another. Then civil war broke out. Over night all of that changed. Suddenly decades-old, friendly ties no longer counted. Old friends have become deadly enemies. Expropriation, expulsion, violence, hate, rape, even murder have basically become every-day events. It is horrifying what is taking place before our very eyes today; it is a living object lesson on the 'two souls in our breasts.' The 'mystery of evil' is celebrating macabre triumphs in our enlightened, highly civilized world of today, too.

The Devil's Declaration of Government

Commissioned by God, the prophet Isaiah passes on to us the Devil's declaration of government,

> *"You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to Heaven; 1 will raise my throne above the stars of God; 1 will sit enthroned on the Mount of Assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; 1 will make me like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:13-14)*

The Devil's Declaration of Government contains five points. In the Hebrew text the word 'I will' (I want) is used.

1. *"I will ascend to Heaven." (Verse 13)*

The Devil wants to occupy God's dwelling-place in Heaven.

2. *"I will raise my throne above the stars of God."*

(Verse 13) The Devil wants to rule over all of the Heavenly beings.

3. *"I will sit enthroned on the Mount of Assembly, on the utmost heights (Luther: in the farthest North) of the sacred mountain." (Verse 13)*

According to the ideas of the Assyrians, the seat of the Assembly of God was in the North. (4)

The Devil wants to rule the universe just like God.

4. *"I will ascend above the tops of the clouds." (Verse 14)*

The Devil wants the honor which is due only to God.

5. *"I will make myself like the Most High." (Verse 14)*

The actual goal of the Devil's government is: I want to be ruler of Heaven and Earth, just like the Most High God. (5)

The Devil wanted to have the respect and the power of his Creator—but the nature and character of God he did not want to have.

God is Accused

The Devil publicly announced his claim in Heaven: status equal to God. A created being wanted to place himself on an equal footing with God and laid claim to the rule of the universe for himself alone.

In order to achieve his goal the Devil had to accuse God. The Devil, the slanderer (diabolos), misrepresented God's character before all of the Heavenly beings. He slandered God's holy nature and utilized very cunning deceptions.

The tactics used by God's adversary were very simple but very effective. The Devil projected his own characteristics into God: God is despotic, unjust, cruel and unwilling to forgive; God's Commandments limit His creatures' freedom, God takes great pleasure in oppressing His creatures, that is why it is justified to oppose God's Law; God is a tyrant who is to be feared.

The tendency to make God responsible for all of the suffering in this world is nothing new to us and hits something we encounter at every step. How often do we hear the question, full of reproach, "If there really is a just God, why is there then so much suffering in this World?" For many people the logical conclusion then follows, "If a loving God allows so much suffering, then I can no longer believe in God's justice. I even doubt whether there really is a living God at all!"

With this attitude God's adversary has achieved his goal with us, too: doubting God's justice and love. The next conclusion must inevitably follow: God is dead!. The true facts of the case, however, are just the opposite.

A Struggle for Power in Heaven

God's message in the Holy Scriptures is an important revelation of what really took place and of the results of the devilish rebellion.

"And there was war in Heaven. Michael and His angels fought against the dragon and the dragon and his angels fought back But he was not strong

enough, and they lost their place in Heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the Earth, and his angels with him." (Rev. 12:7-9)

The Devil's Expulsion

After his drastic change of face there was no longer any room for Lucifer in the presence of God.

"So I threw you to the Earth." (Ezekiel 28:17)

Why could God no longer suffer the rebel Lucifer to remain in His presence? Lucifer, created by God's hand, claimed the Power and Honor of his Creator - but the characteristics of God's nature were, for him, not worth striving for. The creature wanted to be higher than his Creator.

Under the designation of the King of Babylon the prophet Isaiah has given us important information about Lucifer, who God had once created as a glorious living being.

"How you have fallen from Heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn (Lucifer)! You have been cast down to the Earth, you who once laid low the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12)

The expression 'cast down to the Earth' has the meaning of how a tree or a wood is felled.

God's Adversary and His Names

"The great dragon..., that ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray." (Rev. 12:9)

The Bible commentary to the Revelation of John explains here;

"In Revelation the enemy is named with all of his names, which simultaneously express his whole 'register of sins'..."

1. ***"The great dragon,"*** who wants to devour everything, who wants to ruin and destroy God's beautiful creation, mankind above all.
2. ***"That ancient serpent"*** (Genesis 3:1-4), who cunningly approached the human beings to place doubt in their minds about God's Law ("Did God really say...?") and to sow mistrust of God in man ("You will not surely die...") and the spirit of megalomania and rebellion against God ("and you will be like God").
3. ***"The Devil"*** (Greek diabolos) is the bringer of confusion, the divider, the estranger, the slanderer, the accuser.
4. ***"Satan"*** (Hebrew) is the adversary, the enemy. He is continuously trying to disturb, thwart and destroy God's work and, with derision and scorn, to establish and prove the failure of God's plan and work. In this respect the Hebrew word Satan also means "the accuser" who exposes concealed in justice in order to show, "There is nothing special about the pious either!" (cf. Job 1:6-11; 2:4-5)

   ***"Who leads the whole world astray"*:** "All have sinned." (Romans 5:12). He 'leads astray' means he is leading in the wrong direction, away from God and thus into destruction and damnation. Jesus, on the other hand is leading back to God and thus to eternal life and everlasting salvation." (6)

The Son of God Is the Glorious Victor

In only a few words God informs us about the outcome of the struggle for power in Heaven:

> *''Michael and His angels fought against the dragon and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in Heaven. The great dragon was hurled down! He was hurled to the Earth and his angels with him." (Rev. 12:7-9)*

God limited His adversary's sphere of influence to our planet Earth. Sharing his fate, the angels who were lead astray by Satan's lies likewise lost their places in Heaven and were hurled to the Earth with him. How large was this host of angels? "His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky..." (Rev. 12:4)

"The adversary thus dragged one third of God's angels, 'the stars of the sky,' with him in his satanic rebellion and fall. In his ravenous pride Satan, the enemy of God and mankind who hates them as God's beloved, wants to drag all of the angels and mankind into one great incitement of riot against God and to destroy them and all of Creation in his calamitous fall." (7)

> *"...and flung them to the Earth." (Rev. 12:4)*

That is why the 'air' here is pregnant with dark elements, demons and evil spirits. As we say, "There is something in the air." That is why Paul, the apostle to the pagans, wrote about the situation of those who have not yet found the Faith or about the former condition of those who, in the meantime, have already found the Faith:

> *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the rider of*

the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." (Ephesians 2:1-2)

And so Paul then appeals to the Believers.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:10-12)

"Meant under the 'riders of this world' are not the Roman emperors, commanders and governors: they, too, were only 'human beings': rather more, the demonic powers are meant here." (8)

"And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the Great Day." (Jude 6)

Why Did God Not Destroy Satan Immediately?

In His omniscience God knows the end before the beginning. Without hesitation He could have ended His adversary's 'rebellion' immediately. God could have ended Satan's life immediately at the beginning of his rebellion against God's authority. Its spread with all of its terrible consequences could have been effectively prevented through a violent extermination of the 'Rebellion' lead by Satan. There would no longer be any 'evil of sin'; we would be living in a sinless world.

Why did God not eliminate His adversary Satan

immediately at the beginning? Because of His failure to this, is not God also responsible for the spread and consequences of this 'evil of sin'? We find the answers to these important questions in the statements of the Holy Scriptures.

The fundamental character of God can be described in three words: "God is love!" (1 John 4:16) God's love has inconceivably vast dimensions. One aspect of God's love can be seen in that God's love does not use any coercion. God woos us in His love, but He does not coerce us, for coercion produces fear.

> *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)*

God only takes pleasure in service and obedience moved by only one motive: LOVE. If God had immediately punished his adversary with death at the beginning of his rebellion, that would have had a fatal effect on the rest of the Heavenly beings. They were not able to recognize the far-reaching consequences of the rebellion. Experiencing the execution of one of their own kind would have been a great shock for them. Their logical conclusion would most probably have been: "Lucifer was one of us. Now he is no longer alive. Obviously God is a cruel tyrant. Were his accusations correct after all? When will the same thing happen to us? Perhaps it would be better to render reverence and obedience to God before it is our turn and we, too, are punished by God." God certainly does not take any pleasure in obedience motivated by fear.

Exactly the opposite is the case. God's fundamental principle of existence is His boundless love.

One further point: Anyone can make claims. They can be true or false claims. The only important question is: Can the claims also be proven afterwards? Had God taken His adversary's life at the very beginning, his accusations and false claims would still have been left open. The accuser would have been removed, but the accusations would have not. God therefore decided to give His adversary the opportunity and time to reveal his true satanic nature. The whole universe should be able to recognize where rebellion and sin lead and what catastrophic consequences can arise from enmity with God. God wanted to allow obedience out of love and satanic rebellion to exist side by side until the nature of evil has become plainly evident before destroying it at the end. To clearly portray this Jesus used the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds:

> *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed ears, then the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'*
>
> *'An enemy did this,' he replied. The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'*
>
> *'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then*

gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" (Matthew 13:24-30)

God's Provision in Case of Emergency

In His love God, in conjunction with His Son, had already provided a unique plan of salvation even before the emergence of sin:

"He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake." (1 Peter 1:20)

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had already declared Himself ready, if the 'state of emergency of sin' occurred, to come to this planet Earth in human form. Through His blameless conduct He wanted to furnish proof that a sinless life in obedience and love to God is possible. The two-fold love of the Son of God to His Father and to us imperfect humans proves that Satan's claim that God is a merciless tyrant is not in accordance with the facts.

The sinless Son of God was prepared to die as a proxy for sinful man in order to take upon Himself the penalty of eternal death which every sinner must expect and to obtain acquittal from the sentence of death. The fact of His resurrection from the dead (Jesus' tomb is empty) and His ascension to His Father, where He is now our intercessor and advocate, has conclusively shown the universe:

Jesus Christ is the Victor!

Satan has been conquered!

Two Irrefutable Facts

The gruesome execution of the Son of God on the cross has revealed two facts to the whole universe and the vicarious death of Jesus is the irrefutable proof:

Jesus Christ is the love of God personified!

However, Jesus' death is also the shocking object lesson of the calamitous effects which Satan's rebellion has caused. During His sojourn here on Earth, the Son of God tangibly set an example of God's love for mankind; nevertheless He was unrecognized, rejected, unjustly condemned and executed as a criminal. Necessary in order to nevertheless save sinful man for eternal life in God's presence, the vicarious death of Jesus revealed the true character of God's adversary. Satan was able to bring it about that the Son of God had to die. Jesus' death is furthermore the irrefutable proof:

Satan is the enemy of God!

The End of God's Adversary

At the end of time God will punish Satan, the originator of all suffering, by burning him to death. Together with Satan all of those people who have not accepted Jesus' offer of salvation and have continued to live in their sins will also be punished with eternal death:

> *"And the Devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever... Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:10, 14, 15)*

The Bible, the Word of God, informs us: Evil originated in Heaven. Satan, God's enemy, continued his work of destruction here on Earth. There is a terrible end awaiting the originator of sin and all of those who have not

allowed Jesus to save them. To sum up: **Satan and sin**

have had a beginning and they will also have an end.

Our Possibility of Victory

Certainly no one wants to experience his final fate together with Satan in the 'lake of fire'. What possibilities are there for salvation and victory? God's Revelation gives us the answer;

> *''They (our brothers) overcame him..." (Rev. 12:11)*

The Bible commentary to the Revelation of John provides the following explanation:

"In achieving Jesus' victory, not only Michael and His angels have overcome the enemy in Heaven, but Jesus' disciples also are able overcome him here on this Earth..." Here is it now explained how and by what means they have overcome him and how we, too, may be able to overcome him through the power of Jesus' victory:

1. *"By the blood of the Lamb":*

> "During the Passover Night in Egypt (Exodus 12) the destroying angel would not enter those houses whose door-frames were sprinkled with the blood of the Passover Lamb and which were thus protected by this sacrifice representative offered. In the same way the enemy cannot approach us, either, and can find nothing against us in spite of his cunning and his power if we are protected by the blood of the one unique, valid and final Passover Lamb (Jesus Christ), if we hide ourselves in the communion of our Lord who was crucified for us, too. The elders have always said from their pastoral experience, certainly for the spiritual welfare of their souls, as well, 'Satan flees when he sees you on the cross', when he sees you with Jesus. Peter

wrote, 'Your enemy the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.' (1 Peter 5:8) If we hold fast to Jesus, hide ourselves in Christ the Lord crucified and resurrected for us, it we are covered by His blood and live through His sacrifice, then the enemy can only 'go around us,' outside around us' so to say; he will not dare to draw nearer. Especially in temptations during the time of the end, which will be especially difficult and dangerous, we can find comfort by trusting in these promises. Our Lord has said, '...in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.' (John 16:33). In the power of Jesus' sacrifice and victory we can succeed in every situation."

2. *"And by the word of their testimony."*

"From the human point of view, you would think that the testimony for Jesus, confession to Jesus, would only make things more difficult and not easier to survive in a time of trouble. Human experience teaches: Nothing will happen to you, if you only hold your tongue. The Scriptures speak differently and the experience of the Faithful is also different. Not only through deeds but also through testimony and spoken word, will the enemy be defeated. Thus our testimony is on the one hand necessary for the sake of others so that they can be saved as well; on the other hand it is just as helpful and necessary for our own sakes: Whoever fails to testify for Jesus and to acknowledge Him because of the fear of other people will inwardly decline and can finally fall away. Whoever remains courageous and cheerful in his testimony for Jesus, espe-

cially in times of temptation and trouble, is himself strengthened and made more certain and attains even additional power as a result. For 'Jesus is the name which the Devil cannot hear' (Wilhelm Busch, Essen); that is why he yields and then flees, when we praise Jesus aloud and when, in the true sense of the word, we praise Him to others: that means trying to make His name loving, great and indispensable to them, too."

3. ***"They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."***

"The enemy yields to person who is holding so closely and unconditionally to Jesus that he is ready to go through all kinds of suffering with and for Jesus. The reason why the enemy withdraws from him is that when a person desires to be very close to Jesus in every situation, Jesus is very close to him, too. And then the enemy dares not approach him. 'Come near to God and He will come near to you.' (James 4:8)" (9)

The Good News of Victory

"Then I heard a loud voice in Heaven say. 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God, and authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did

not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.'" (Rev. 12:10-11)

At the end of this paragraph I would again like to come back to the intent of this book: Whoever has

once claimed the assistance of the Devil whether he himself or one of his ancestors into the third or fourth generation, must pay Satan a price for his devilish assistance and is burdened, by the occult.

There is, however, no need to be discouraged. Jesus is the Victor in your life, too. The path to freedom is fully described in this book. May I encourage you, whoever you are, to claim the victory and freedom through Jesus right now.

Jesus is the Victor in your life, too!

Paul, the great missionary to the pagans, encouraged us:

> *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the Heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit*
>
> *which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep*

on praying for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:10-18)

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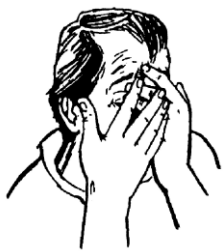
Appendix 2:
Sin: What Is It?

Our automobile had to be thoroughly cleaned again. The windshield was especially dirty. At one place I was trying to remove some very thick and stubborn dirt with the sponge. Our neighbor, amused, had been watching me for quite a while. His grin was making me nervous, so I asked him, "What is there to laugh about here?" His answer made me embarrassed, "I am wondering how long it will still take before you notice that the dirt is on the inside!"-The dirt was on the inside; that was my problem.

We clean and take care of our cars, our gardens, our sports, our love, our good reputations, our respect, our appearance, our careers, our bank accounts, etc. No matter how hard we try, it doesn't seem to bring us any genuine pleasure. Something is just not right. We never seem to amount to much. "The dirt is on the inside!"-How are our attitudes and actions guided? Even with the best of intentions and the greatest effort we often find that the results do not completely correspond with our goals. Our joy is clouded. "The dirt is on the inside!"

The ambiguity of our false behavior has been aptly formulated by the Holy Scriptures:



"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the Law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that noth-

ing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it." (Romans 7:15-20)

Obviously we are moved by the impulse to 'sin'.

What Is to Be Understood by the Term Sin?

1. Rebellion:

Pesha (Hebrew):

"It is revolt (national, moral, or religious), transgression, sin, trespass, wickedness, rebellion, faithlessness, apostasy, defection. It is a premeditated crossing of the line of God's Law, a rebellious act of rejecting God's authority." (1)

"In the fall into sin the ego revolted and was reaching for freedom supposedly being withheld from him. The nature of sin becomes evident in that it turns man away from God, concerning his fear of God as well as his trust in God, and places his ego on the throne." (2)

"...man is exposed as a sinner. He is the one who wants to sin, because he is the rebel against God. And because he wants to sin and rebel, he is also guilty.

In this condition of sin brought about by his own guilt, he lives as his own prisoner who cannot over-

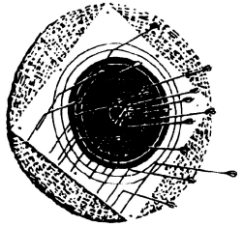
come sin but is subjected to it. For ... everyone who sins is a slave to sin.'" (John 8:34). (3)

The nature of sin is rebellion and revolt. We experience rebellion every day. Children rebel against their parents. One marriage partner rebels against the other one. Minorities rebel against majorities. There is rebellion in the political arena. We encounter rebellion and revolt everywhere.

In his basic attitude each and every person is living in revolt, in rebellion against God. God is irksome to us. The thought that we must render account to God for our motives and actions one day this fill us with fear and terror. Having a higher being above us injures our pride. We do not want to be ruled, but we ourselves would rather rule. Face to face with God we react with rebellion. It is easy to understand that this basic attitude then has an effect on the other areas of our lives as well.

2. Missing the Goal

Chata (Hebrew):



"Moving in the wrong direction; missing the goal aimed at." (4)

"It is falling short of God's standard." (5)

"But whoever fails to find me harms himself all who hate Me love death." (Proverbs 8:36)

"If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?" (1 Samuel 2:25)

Hamartia (Greek):

"Sin, is missing the true end and scope of our lives,

which is in God. " (6)

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)

In addition God has given us His standard of life in His Ten Commandments. His Ten Commandments are ten goals of behavior with which God has protectively made provision for our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Through the set of laws of the Ten Commandments God wants to preserve us from harm. God's Commandments are 'limiting goals' which are supposed to protect us. When do 1 not attain God's standard? When am 1 a sinner?

For instance, in the Eighth Commandment God commands us, *"You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)* God's goal is the protection of property. Stealing is exactly the opposite: taking someone else's property without his permission. According to God's statement, stealing is missing the goal of the Commandment: "You shall not steal." Stealing is sin, even when today the form of stealing is described in 'elegant' terms. In our modern language we 'only' speak of 'getting things organized correctly', 'carrying out an equal distribution of goods', and 'taking care of you'.

It does not matter whether I use a few stamps from the company for my personal mail, whether I 'help myself here', or whether I misappropriate a large sum, utilizing a kind of 'distribution of costs.' In both cases I have missed the goal "You shall not steal," I have trespassed the Law and I am a sinner.

Soccer-players have the aim of kicking the ball into the opponents' goal. It does not matter whether the ball lands only five centimeters or three meters away from the goal—in both cases the goal has been missed.

God's goal of truth is, "You shall not give false *testimony against your neighbor."* (Exodus 20:16) Whether I only express a small falsehood or I spread treacherous defamation, in both cases I have not attained God's goal of truth, I have trespassed the Law and I am a sinner. A 'white lie' is still a lie!

Sin, 'missing the goal', is no harmless past-time. Death is awaiting everybody whoever separates himself from God, the giver of life, by 'missing the goal', by sinning.

> *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)*

3. Transgression

Parabasis (Greek):

"Spatially or figuratively it means deviation, trespass, transgression." (7)

"You are so proud of knowing God's laws, but you dishonor him by breaking them." (Romans 2:23, The Living Bible)

An athletic competition is being held. The best athletes have lined up for the long-jump. The takeoff line is not to be overstepped. The favorite long-jumper steps over the line; the jump is not valid. In the following two jumps, he steps also over the line. The bitter truth is:

disqualification, that is, elimination from the competition.

Whoever steps over the line of God's Commandments is guilty of transgression, becomes a sinner and is disqualified. God must eliminate him-he is a candidate for death.

Parabaino (Greek verb):

"To fall from or lose one's station or office by transgression." (8)

"To miss one's footing, to pass by, to go astray." (9)

Again and again it has occurred that a responsible person has overstepped his area of jurisdiction and taken liberties he is not entitled to. This mistake then costs him his position. He then loses his office.

Through the transgression of God's directive the first human beings lost their status with God; they became sinners.

4. Transgression of the Law

Anomia (Greek):

"Transgression of the law, iniquity" (10)

The attitude about the law by a person who likes to do exactly the opposite.

For the protection of us all street traffic is regulated by traffic laws. In a certain construction zone the speed is limited to 60 km/h. There are some drivers who feel restricted by this regulation. Heedlessly they continue to drive 20 or 30 km/h faster and pay no

attention to the speed limit. They disregard the traffic law and make themselves guilty of breaking the speed limit.

We encounter the same thing when we feel restricted by the demands and commandments of God. We are of the opinion that we can disregard the Commandments and remain unpunished. We have a negative inner attitude and we do exactly the opposite of what God's Commandments tell us to do. The transgression of His Law is what God calls sin.

> *"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil." (Matthew 13:41)*

> *"Sin is a lack of an understanding of God. Thus all of the many individual sins can be understood as symptoms of the one sin which arises in a life without God, in unbelief, in hopelessness, in renunciation of His love... this is to be traced back to the root of the fall from God." (11)*

Useless Mastering of Sin

"Wherever man sets himself up as the standard, he of course knows that he makes mistakes, has his faults, is subject to fateful drives, and is faced with death which he explains naturally, psychologically and sociologically. Naturally, aggressive behavior is viewed as a necessary function of existence in order to be able to hold his own and to survive in the battle of everyone against everyone and in the rat-race of society. Should it occur that the evil is concentrated and criminal (such as in mass annihilation, a 'crime against humanity'), it is often understood and explained as sickness, historical necessity or historical destiny. From this there then

arises a feeling of being powerless, hopelessly at the mercy of the machinery of the world and history...

The personal realm is determined by sickness, suffering, frustration, anxiety, failure and death... In all kinds of ideologies and religions methods are developed to live with evil, to overcome it through behavior and effort.

Nevertheless, in the end we are all personally responsible for sin as well as faith in the end. All means of evasion i.e. to want to first find sin in others, in the circumstances, in society, do not relieve us of this responsibility." (12)

Liberation from the Prison of Sin

All of us have fallen into a prison of sin through our own guilt. No one can free himself from this prison of sin through his own efforts. Through our occult contacts or the occult activities of our ancestors it has become possible for God's adversary to also demand a 'blackmail price' of us as well in this prison of sin. We are being tortured and do not know the reason for it.

The deliverer from the prison of sin and from all blackmail is called: Jesus Christ. He will forgive every sin and pardon us from the penalty of eternal death. Furthermore, Jesus will grant us an inner reorientation through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will then lead us out of our rebellious behavior which is hostile to God. We will no longer enjoy living our lives in resistance to God. We will receive a new inner desire to walk down the right path in fellowship with God.

Showered with divine pardon, reconciled with God and our fellow-men, and freed of occult burden, we will experience a peace of mind never know before. We will begin a 'new life worth living'.

You, too, can experience this life worth living in every aspect, if you will choose the path of freedom as described in this book. What is still holding you back from accepting God's offer today?

God's Gifts Cost You Absolutely Nothing!

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Many who have read this book will have the desire to know more about the Bible and its teachings.

This is a good opportunity to print here the address of the Bible-course that is offered in your country.

Appendix 3: 10 Theses on Holistic Medicine from a Christian Perspective

1. **YES** to a holistic consideration of all aspects of life of the human being—based, however, on God's Word and the portrayal of man therein. -

   NO to a syncretistic, pantheistic way of life, which is interlinked with the occult.

2. **YES** to taking a responsible and cautious approach to the therapeutic capabilities of modern medicine.

   NO to a substitution of tested and approved methods for naturopathic and / or esoteric healing methods without scientific validation.

3. **YES** to a perspective and a method of treating illnesses that take the effects of spiritual influences on a person's state of health into consideration. -

   NO to accepting strange beliefs on how one becomes ill, based on Oriental spirituality.

4. **YES** to promoting self-sufficiency and the human body's God-given self-healing and self-regulating capabilities. -

   NO to accepting a psychological self-realization ideology and techniques meant to boost the body's self-regulating capabilities through magic or Oriental meditation.

5. **YES** to studying God's Word by reading the Bible and through prayer. -

   NO to meditative and autosuggestion practices that only point one to oneself or to other "spiritual forces."

6. **YES** to special prayer according to the guidelines provided in James 5. -

   NO to the laying on of hands on the patient or to massages that are meant to channel "healing energy" into the body.

7. **YES** to believing in supernatural healing and miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit according to the Christian church and within the context of the gospel. -

   NO to supernatural or spiritual healing with the help of spirits and forces from other worlds.

8. **YES** to the confession and turning away from occult practices. Healing methods that raise uncertainties or present potential dangers should be avoided. -

   NO to accepting rash and biased assertions defining psychological and somatic problems as „occult afflictions" due to treatment from alternative healing methods.

9. **YES** to acknowledging the transitory state, fallibility, and weakness of humans in this world.

   NO to the assertion of good health as being a sign of harmony with God.

10. **YES** to the awareness of God's ability to work—even through suffering, whether to promote

> the maturation of the character of the human being, or to foster the development of strength in areas of weakness. The Christian church has the important responsibility of providing holistic care for the sick; a care that not only includes healing, but support for the weak as well.

Wolfgang J. Bittner / Samuel Pfeifer

An Leib und Seele heil werden (*Becoming Completely Healed*), (R. Brockhaus Verlag Wuppertal, Germany 1997), pp. 108-109.

Appendix 4: Alternative Healing Methods: Spiritual Criteria

"If our goal is to identify and retain legitimate healing methods by examining various types, we can not afford to only thoroughly examine those that we suspect of occultism. The spiritual aspects of many alternative healing methods are important in order to point out possible conflicts with the Christian faith.

Table 5 lists several questions that can be asked to help one decide whether a healing method should be used or not.

Table 5: Spiritual Criteria for Testing Healing Methods (According to J. Neidhart)

1. ***Does this method only work with a philosophy? If so, which one? Is this philosophy consistent with the Word of God?***

   "Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world and not from Christ." Colossians 2:8.

2. ***a) Does this method bring me closer to God or weaken my faith?***

   "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really wolves that will tear you apart. You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You don't

pick up grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles. A healthy tree produces good fruit, and an unhealthy tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced." Matthew 7:15-20.

b) Do I still have peace with God when I use this method?

"If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7.

3. Does this method make reference to terminology or allude to concepts found in occultism or esotericism?

"When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune- telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is an object of horror and disgust to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these things that the LORD your God will

drive them out ahead of you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 18:9-12.

4. ***Does this cure work with other supernatural powers or forces in the Universe that serve as a substitution of the Holy Spirit?***

   "For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12.

5. ***Is the path of healing built on principles of self-healing, self-redeeming, or self-idolization of the human being?***

   "God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil." Genesis 3:5.

6. ***Using this method, am I searching for help through faith or through superstition?***

   "But cowards who turn back from following me, and those who are unfaithful to me, and the corrupt, and the murderers, and the immoral, and those conversing with demons, and idol worshippers and all liars - their doom is in the Lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This is the Second death. Nothing evil will be allowed to enter - no one who practices shameful idolatry and dishones-

ty — but only those whose names are

written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:8.27.

"Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the Tree of life. Outside the city are the dogs - the sorcerers, the sexual immoral, the murderers, the idol worshippers, and all who love a lie." Revelation 22:14.15.

(Bible Version: NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

Wolfgang J. Bittner / Samuel Pfeifer, *An Leib und Seele heil werden*, (*Becoming Completely Healed*), (R. Brockhaus Verlag, Wuppertal, 1997), pp.96-97.

Appendix 5: Is there an occult burden resulting from the actions of ancestors?

Are there occult burdens resulting from the actions of ancestors, who were active in occultism and therefore, suffered from a dependency upon and a relationship with Satan? To answer this question I would like to draw your attention to the contexts that are important when examining the biblical answer.

Demons are a reality

Occult burdens are a reality that should be taken seriously according to the Bible. The Holy Scriptures makes it clear in various places that Satan - God's antagonist - and the demons subject to him are a reality. Demons are satanic, supernatural powers and evil spirits that bring harm and ensnare and even claim ownership of people. The Old Testament includes a description of such demonic spirits (cf. Dt 32:17; Ps 106:37; Is 13:21; Is 34:14; 2 Ch 11:15) and explicitly warns of their consultation and influence: *"When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn (i.e. no hope)" (Isaiah 8:19, 20).*

As King Saul relied upon the services of a medium sorcerer instead of turning to God, God put his sentence upon him (1 Ch 10:13, 14; cf. 1 Sa 28:13). In many

other passages, God explicitly forbade occult practices

such as fortune telling, magic, sorcery, casting a spell on a person speaking with the dead and things like that, because they are detestable to God (Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

The New Testament also shares biblical testimonies of the reality of demons and evil spirits (cf. Mt 8:16; 9:32, 33; Mk 9:20; Lk 9:39; Acts 5:16; 16:18; Rev 16:13, 14 and many more). Such demonic spirits are able to bestow special powers, torture the affected persons (Mk 5:5; 9:18) and treat people as though they were a will-less machine (Mk 5:3-7; 9:18-26; Lk 8:29). Demonic possession results not only in deafness and muteness (Mk 9:17, 25), but also in blindness (Mt 12:22), craziness (Mk 5:1-16), fortune telling (Acts 16:16), and sickness (Lk 13:11, 16). Of course, not all sickness and brokenness of the body can be related to demons,[1] simply because sickness and brokenness are a result of sin, which entered the world through Satan.

The Holy Bible speaks not about the satanic reality in order to satisfy our human curiosities, but to warn us, because the demonic reality is not harmless. Nevertheless, there is no reason to lead a life of fear for Christ is victorious.

The effectiveness of the demonic realm is not constricted to biblical times. According to the Bible, the last days of our world's history may expect a strong demonic power to be working: *"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."* (1

[1] D.E. Aune, "Demon," *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989), vol. 1, p. 922.

Tim 4:1). Due to the fact that the influence of demons and spirits in religious domains has been documented in the Bible, the biblical differentiation between the types of spirits is necessary. God himself gives certain spiritual gifts. In the listing of the spiritual gifts it is expressed that *"another is able of distinguishing what comes from the Spirit of God and what does not"* (1 Cor 12:4-11).

The liberal theology denies the reality of the occult powers

The reality of biblically-testified occultism is dismissed to a great extent by liberal theology. In the course of the European Enlightenment, the ancient belief in demons was radically questioned and the biblical testimony about Satan and the demons was mythological denied. [2]

On the other hand, Dr. Helge Stadelmann, president of the Free Theological Academy – Giessen, states

[2] Compare Rolf Hille, „Satan, Dämon, Besessenheit," Helmut Burkhardt, et al., eds. Das Grosse Bibellexikon (Wuppertal: R. Brockhaus verlag, 1989), vol. 3. p. 1348; and G. Gloege, „Dämonen," Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart, ed. Kurt Galling, (Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 31986), vol. 2, p .3. In a classically liberal form Rudolf Bultmann dismissed the existence of spirits and demons due to a historically critical understanding of reality. In vehement denial of all supernatural reality, Bultmann writes, "The belief in spirits and demons has been taken care of through the awareness of the powers and laws of nature ... sicknesses and their cures have natural causes and are not at all related to the working of demons, respectively, or their banishment. The miracles of the New Testament are therefore ruled out as miracles,..." (Rudolf Bultmann, Neues Testament und Mythologie: Das Problem der Entmythologisierung der neutestamentlichen Verkiindigung [Munchen: Chr. Kaiser Verlag, 1985 (1941)], pp. 15-16).

correctly, "One thing should be clear: the Bible testifies the reality and the threatening effectiveness of demons. Should we allow ourselves to be dictated by an understanding of a science that is oriented on this world, if everything that does not closely fit into the borders of thought of this world is considered non-reality? No. Because when it deals with supernatural -transcendental things - our scientific competence reaches its end. Here we have to rely on the revelations that we find in the Holy Scriptures.[3]

In accordance with the clear statements made in the Bible, demons, with all their threatening efficiency, are real beings. Perm-Lewis reaches an indisputable result: "Usually one views the evil sprits only as 'influences' and not as independent beings, but in the Bible we find many clues that explain that they have specific personalities with different characters because the Lord commands them (Mk 1:25; 3: 11, 12; 5:8; 9:25), they can speak (Mk 3:11), they are capable of answering with sensible words (Mt 8:29), they sense fear (Lk 8:31), they express certain wishes (Mt8:31), they desire a resting place to dwell (Mt 12:44), they can communicate with other spirits, the degree of their evilness varies (Mt 12:45), they become angry (Mt 8:28), they have great power (Mk 5:9), they can find a home in human bodies, in a single person (Mk 1:26) or to the thousands (Mk 5:9), the use humans as a media in order to tell the future (Acts 16:16) or to perform through their power great miracles (Acts 8:11)."[4]

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[3] Helge Stadelmann, Das Okkulte, (Giessen/Basel: Brunnen Verlag, 1984), p. 41.

[4] J. Penn-Lewis, Kampf nicht mit Fleisch und Blut, (Widdelswehr, 1966), p. 33, quoted by Helge Stadelmann, pp. 41, 42.

The New Testament theologian from Tubingen Otto Michel aptly comments: "Only to speak of a neutral evil is biblically inadequate. That which is satanic exposes itself as a spirit and power in concrete form."[5]

The crucial contrast is that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is good personified, while Satan, the opponent of God, is evil personified.

Therefore it has been correctly emphasized that in connection with the occult, satanic powers are fighting against the work of God through the use of resistance and protest. "A kingdom of lies places itself opposite of God's kingdom. And so will all that is godly find a devilish parallel: the worship service versus idolatry, the revelation of God and its genuine prophecy versus divination, genuine miracles given by God versus magic, the freeing taking possession of the Holy Spirit within a person versus baneful demon possession."[6] In other words: "Demon possession deals with devilish inspiration; this inspiration is the satanic opposite to a deep fellowship with Jesus and the body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. In a demon possessed person, a foreign, satanic will is at work. This satanic will dictates the person's behavior."[7]

The Bible clearly differentiates between the general power by Satan and his tempting art as ruler of this world and the special demonic possession. But "all occult practice and experiences of man are inseparable

[5] Otto Michel, Gestaltswandel des Boesen (Wuppertal 1975) p. 7, quoted by Helge Stadelmann, p. 42.

[6] Stadelmann, pp. 42-43.

[7] Hille, 3:1347.

connected with the effectiveness of the demonic powers."[8]

God's position to occult practices

Considering this ungodly orientation and power, it is no wonder that the Bible strongly forbids idolatry, divination and magic (Lv 17:7; 19:4, 26, 31; 20:6; Dt 4:16-19; 18:9-11, 14). There are major consequences for occult behavior, even death penalty (Ex 22:17; Lv 20:6, 27; Dt 13). Occult practices lead to exclusion from the eternal fellowship with God (Rv 22:15). It appears that the person involved with magic and divination renews the temptation of desiring to be like God (Gn 3:5). The person wants to take possession of a knowledge that only the living God has. To search for this knowledge among the deceased, who know nothing and who have no part on anything on earth (Eccl 9:5, 6, 10; Job 14:10-12; Ps 115:17), is in particular an insult to the living God (Is 8:19, 20) because he alone knows the future. With good reason a person who falls into idolatry is transgressing the Law of God: "I am the LORD your God... You shall have no other gods before me..." (Ex 20:2ff). It is therefore no surprise that Leviticus 19:4, 31 uses similar language when forbidding the practice of idolatry, spiritualism and divination: "I am the LORD your God!" Then it is correctly emphasized: "Those who carry on in these practices make a choice to abandon God as their Lord and come under the judgment of God. The LORD your God' has been lost and now the person faces the jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me' (Ex 20:5; cp.

[8] Stadelmann, p. 43.

34:7; Lv 14:18; Dt 5:9)."[9] This leads us to the question: Is there an occult burden resulting from the actions of ancestors?

Does a "family spell" exist?

If we look at the background mentioned previously, we want to go into the controversial problem that is linked to the following question: „Does God punish the innocent if he afflicts idolatry if it is practiced throughout the generations of a family until the great grant children? Is this generation principle dismissed from the New Testament, or is there actually something to the concept of a spell upon a family, who has been involved in occultism?[10]

God is righteous

Next, it is vital to carefully call attention to the following: The statement in the Ten Commandments gives the first evidence that God always acts righteously. It says here, *"I...am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation* ***of those who hate me****"* (Ex 20,5b; cp. Dt 5:9 emphasis added). This last part of the sentence, *"of those who hate me,"* applies to the characteristics of the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The godly retaliation does not apply to the innocent, but to those who chose to live outside of the will of God and are following in the footsteps of their forefathers.

We read something similar in Leviticus 26:39, 40: *"Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands*

[9] Stadelmann, pp. 44, 45.

[10] Stadelmann, pp. 45, 46.

of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their fathers' sins they will waste away. But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers—their treachery against me and their hostility toward me..." Even here the own offensiveness is related to the guilt of the fathers and this leads to judgment.

In 1 Kings 21:21-28 it is told how the fall and extermination of Ahab's clan occurs through his godlessness. Here again it is also interesting that God's pursuing of the descendents of Ahab proved that they were also effected by the occult practices, however not because they were innocent, but because they were idolatrous (Ahaziah: 1 Kings 22:52f; Joram: 2 Kings 3: If; finally the judgment of God on Jezebel, 2 Kings 9:10).

In these cases, there is a negative entanglement through idolatry that also afflicts the descendents. Indeed, the descendents of those who have practiced idolatry are to blame themselves because they did idolatry and they themselves turned their back on God.

God does not punish the innocent in any way. God is fair in his verdict and judgment. If he "[shows] love to thousands but [bringing] the punishment for the fathers' sins into the laps of their children after them" then his eyes are simultaneously "open to all the ways of men; you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve" (Jer 32:18, 19).

The well-known statements made in Jeremiah 31:29, 30 and Ezekiel 18:2-4, 19-32 are also similar, which clearly speak of a God who judges people as individuals, each after their own behavior and also expresses that no son should bear the guilt of the father or vice versa. The biblical understanding shows that each person is responsible to God for their **personal guilt** and God will call every person to account for their **personal guilt**.

The problem of occult effects on future generations

The other question is however whether this readiness of God to forgive and the individual responsibility for one's own guilt can have a deeper lying effect on the occult powers also on the future generations.

In fact, there are some biblical indications that say there are effects on the future generations in relation to the area of sin. Although the Bible emphasizes the value of and the responsibility of the individual for his own deeds, it does not suggest that a person should never try to be the measure or the centre of all things, which is what occurred under modern individualism. The Bible emphasizes much more the synthetic, holistic interweaving of the individual with the family, the group and the society. One person stands for all; all are responsible for the life of the other. The actions of one person leave its effects on the entire clan or group.[11]

Perhaps the most well-known example for this biblical phenomenon is the story of Achan's theft during

[11] This biblical phenomenon was described by H. Wheeler Robinson, Corporate Personality in Ancient Israel (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964, originally appearing as: "The Hebrew Conception of Corporate Personality" in Werden und Wesen des Alten Testaments, ed. J. Hempel, (supplement to ZAW, 66, 1936), pp. 49-62). Compare with Thorleif Boman, Das hebräische Denken im Vergleich mit dem griechischen, (Gottingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1965), pp. 56-57; George A. F. Knight, A Christian Theology of the Old Testament (Carlisle, Paternoster Press, 1998), pp. 14-20; Ralph L. Smith, Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message (Nashville, TN:Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1993), pp. 252-255.

the conquest of Jericho (Jo 6-7). Joshua placed the entire city of Jericho under a spell. But Achan made a mistake out of greed and took something that he should not have (Jo 7:1). The sins of one person had its effects on the entire clan, especially the members who died together with him (Jo 7:24-25).

A similar relationship between an individual and the people is recognized in the behavior of the high priest. A sin of the high priest had consequences on all the people. Therefore, a special sin offering was sacrificed for the high priest (Lv 4:3ff, 16).

The consequences of Adam's sin were even experienced by all the future generations although only one person committed the sin. Although the Bible does not teach a concept of inherited sin in the sense of inherited guilt that we have inherited from Adam, the Bible does speak of a tendency towards evil that each individual has had since birth (Ps 51:7, 58:4; Jb 14:4). This is why our *"every inclination...is evil from childhood"* (Gn 8:21). Adam's single sin is not simply confined to himself, but it has its effects on all the descendents, even on nature, which was thrown into transitoryness without a choice (Rom 8:19-21).

In the Bible, we also find information on the reality behind the hidden sins in our life. King David, who was guilty of more than murder and adultery, repented not only of his open offences, but also made the following request: *"Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults"* (Ps 19:12). The reality of sin that is addressed goes above and beyond the known actions. Even unknown sins require the forgiveness of God.

Other biblical reports show that sin and satanic influences can also exist in the lives of Christians. In Acts of the Apostles, a story is told of how Satan wedges his way again into the lives of Christians, including a mar-

ried couple in the faith. Ananias and Saphira have not participated in occult activities, but they attempted to cheat God and were, therefore, under the influence of Satan. Peter asked Ananias: *"how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?"* (Acts 5:3). Thus, Satan had a way into the hearts of some members of the church of God.

Paul warned Timothy within the church that *"he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful"* so *"that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will"* (2 Tm 2:24-26). Obviously there were those, even in the first Christian church, who remained in the entanglement by the devil.

Are there still "bridge-heads" of Satan among Christians?

If we have surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ then we are children of God (1 Jn 5:12; Jn 1:12). The biblical understanding of baptism (Mk 16:16; Rom 6:3, 4; Ti 3:5; 1 Pt 3:21) is however no magical sacramental act that frees the people of all demonic influences and effects in some supernatural way that have developed due to past satanic entanglement and commitment. If there was no realization of sin with respect to such occult commitments at the time of conversion, and if therefore no known turning away from these satanic relations of the past follows, the possibility remains that "bridge-heads" of Satan may be found in the life of a Christian.

An example can clarify what is meant: A successful, working woman plans on purchasing a new car. She goes to her bank and applies for a loan in the amount of € 40,000 and receives the sum. The bank obtains a copy of the vehicle registration document for their securi-

ty. With that, the bank becomes the owner of the car until the loan is paid back in full. The lady's payments are due monthly. After a while, she meets a man. They fall in love and get married. Through the marriage, the woman takes on her husband's name. However, she does not tell him of her financial debts. She moves to another city far away from her home, where she finds a new job and opens up a new bank account at a new bank. She had paid back € 20,000 towards the car at the time she married and moved locations. She still owes her bank another € 20,000. Does the new relationship, the change of her name or her new residency cancel the payment of the loan? No! Should she refuse to pay back the loan with the excuse that she married and took a new name, her original bank will raise a lawsuit and reclaim the remainder of the loan money. The bank will most definitely not waive the remainder of the loan and interest. If the woman however tells her husband of her debts, it is possible that the husband takes on the responsibility of the debt and, out of love for his wife, pays back the remainder of the loan.

Something very similar happens when a person accepts even only once the "loans" of Satan. Those who operated within the occult area penetrate the "Spell of Satan" and must consider that Satan will pester even

christians with his disastrous demands. Satan can even make the lives of born-again Christians difficult, especially when there are areas in their lives that he can reach into with claims and debts because of the results of accepting „special help" from Satan. Jesus Christ is the only one who can eliminate this dependency upon the devil.

A personal experience can help to understand the issue better: During a purchase at a company I gave my home address. Unexpectedly, I began regularly receiving advertisements and other bits of information.

Even after I moved to another city quite a distance away, the company continued to send advertisements on the best offers and one-time deals there were to take advantage of. -The person who chooses when the opportunity arises to take on an offer from the collection of samples from the father of lies should know that his address has been saved. In this area one is more easily vulnerable to the demonic working of Satan.

Stadelmann presents two warranted questions:

"What happens if there was no admission of sin in respect to occult offences at the time of conversion, and therefore no known turning away from these satanic relations to the past follows? Are the negatives "mortgages" of the past through the fundamental turning towards faith automatically abolished or could there be "bridge-heads" of Satan in the life of a Christian?"

Light dispels the darkness

Stadelmann, in his book worth reading "Das Okkulte" (the occult) refers to the following important issues: ***"As a matter of principle, Christians are people who have been called out of the darkness into the light*** (1 Pt 2:9); they are *'rescued...from the dominion of darkness and brought... into the kingdom of the Son he loves'* (Col 1:13).: ***"But everything exposed by the light becomes visible"*** (Eph 5:13). This principle can also be applied to the present questions that we are dealing with. ***"If at the time of conversion the dark doings of occultism has not been uncovered (exposed) still a dark area remains that still needs to be put in***

order. The 'Spirit' has the assignment of overcoming the 'flesh', which includes the occult (Gal 5:20)."[12]

For Christians, it is absolutely necessary to appeal to the freedom received from Jesus so that the final of destruction of the Satanic "bridge-heads" may be experienced. Otto Michel, a theologian from Tubingen, makes this point clear: "The fact that even a Christian, who is justified and sanctified, has the assignment of daily freeing themselves from satanic and demonic influences reveals to us a most peculiar severity in our problem.. .that there is also the "desire" for the things of Satan within Christian circles, which is shown in Rv 2:24 (*'Satan's so-called deep secrets'*)[13] That means: ***"Although a Christian should be filled with the Spirit of God*** (Eph 5:25), ***it can happen that Satan hogs the limelight due to the measure in which the Christian stays in not purified dark areas of life."***[14]

The experience as a driver has shown me that the contours blur in the twilight. Compared to the bright

daylight, the contours is not as easy to recognize. People who live their lives in the "daylight" of the knowledge of God have no interest in accepting the weighty and betraying offers out of the "sample collection" of the devil. However, those who are curious and are searching for help on the frontier area of the "occult twilight" will easily be outwitted and pulled into the spell of Satan, as well as his corresponding demands.

Jesus Christ is the conqueror! - Commit all the areas of your life to HIM.

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[12] Stadelmann, p. 49 (emphasis added).

[13] Michel, 8, quoted. by Stadelmann, p. 50.

[14] Stadelmann, p. 50 (emphasis added).

"The freedom from occult sins will occur through the taking advantage of Jesus' perfect salvation. The person's job is to take steps towards the admission of sin, an attitude to change and radical detachment of all occult things ... as well as total devotion to God, who alone gives complete freedom."[15] (Additional reading: *The Spell of Superstition*, pp.172-178 and pp.184-187)

Let us never forget - the most important fact in relation to the devil is this: **Jesus Christ** has conquered Satan! If the issue is in the area of occultism, then Satan and his powers cannot be given the honor of being in the centre of attention. The message that Jesus won the battle against Satan at the cross should take the centre stage. Therefore, real freedom is only possible if we abandon our previous loyalties with evil and entrust all life's area to Jesus Christ without reservations. **Jesus' victory must personally be accepted and taken advantage of.**

Dear reader, it could be that your questions have been answered or you are thinking about new discoveries.

One fact remains true: **Each person can make a new start everyday. Today you can make a new start!** The best beginning for you: **Take on Jesus' offer!**

JESUS CHRIST LOVES YOU!

[15] Stadelmann, p. 53 (emphasis added).

Jesus Christ also wants to be victorious in your life!

Invite him now into your life. Speak with Jesus. He died for you and shed his blood for the forgiveness of your sins. The Bible says:

> *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."(1 John 1:7-9).*

I invite you to speak with Jesus right now:

"Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for loving me. I have recognized that I have been governing my own life. I admit my misconduct and my guilt (list your sins that are before you and call them loud by name). **I am sorry. I was an accomplice on your death. Please forgive me, just as you have promised. I thank you now for your complete forgiveness.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are innocent, but you died for me on the cross. You have given me all evidence for your love. It is of great worth making a decision for you. I thank you that I can trust you. It is worthy because of your love and death to make a life decision for you. Now I surrender my life to you and ask you to be the only Lord and Victor in my life. I thank you that now my life-surrender is a reality and that you are leading my life. Heal the wounds of my life. Turn me into the new person you would have me to be. Let this happen through your Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus Christ, I place myself under the protection of your precious blood.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8). **Your promise also applies to me. You have the power to do that. Destroy now the works of the devil in my life. I am convinced that you can do this. I thank you that you have given me the victory-gift of freedom. Lord Jesus Christ, my life and my future belong to you. Fashion everything so that it will be an honor to you and let it work for my very best. I thank you for your love and your help. Amen."**

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Appendix 6:
The Ten Commandments

(According to the Bible in Exodus 20, 1-17)

And God spoke all these words:

1. "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

2. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

3. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

4. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

5. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

6. "You shall not murder.

7. "You shall not commit adultery.

8. "You shall not steal.

9. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."